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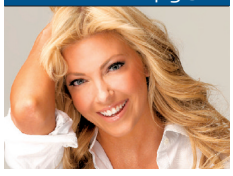
It's called a driveway, not parkway

LAW Residents of Toledo, Ohio, are complaining that they received $25 tickets for parking their vehicles in their own driveways.

Mayor Carty Finkbeiner says he stands by the citations handed out last week by the Division of Streets, Bridges and Harbor. He says the tickets were issued under a city law against parking on unpaved surfaces, including gravel driveways.

City Coun. D. Michael Collins calls the ticketing "Mickey Mouse nonsense." He has told residents he'll try to have the citations rescinded. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Metro Drive pg 30



Hickey hits open road

Canada pg 8

Balsillie not giving up

Sunny Side

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No Doubt **She's just a girl**

PAUL FORD/TORONTO SUN

Gwen Stefani performs last night with No Doubt at the Air Canada Centre. No Doubt stopped in Toronto as part of its reunion tour. **Review, page 48.**

Tweets sidestep regime

News released from Iran

Twitter has emerged as the platform of choice for information about the political unrest that has gripped Iran.

With international media banned from the streets of Tehran in the wake of Friday's disputed elections, some Iranians have turned to the real-time social networking site to ensure the facts get out.

People the world over, including Canadians, are being urged to help protect those who are risking their lives to combat censorship.

Twitter is getting out images and details that mainstream media can't — security forces firing on crowds; and blood-soaked protesters writhing in pain from bullet wounds.

The University of Toronto's Munk Center for International Studies is among the many groups making software available to Iranian Internet users so they can bypass government restrictions.

The importance of Twitter's role in the current crisis is such that the website decided to postpone a planned maintenance of the site, which would have taken it offline for 90 minutes Monday at a time when hundreds of new posts were being added every few minutes on popular Iran election threads.

VideoOnline

The Internet was quietly feeding Iranian dissent long before this election at metronews.ca/canada

THE CANADIAN PRESS

MORE COVERAGE, PAGE 15

Windsor branded as ground zero of recession

The Conference Board is naming the auto manufacturing town of Windsor as ground zero of the economic recession.

The Ottawa-based think-tank says the slump is punishing small- and medium-sized towns across Canada, but none so much as Windsor, which is expected to see its economy contract 5.6 per cent this year.

4 The Conference Board says all 14 communities will return to growth over the next four years, led by Oshawa with a four per cent gross domestic product advance

By contrast, most economists estimate the national economy will shrink by about 2.5 per cent in 2009 compared with last year.

In its analysis of 14 small and medium-sized cities, the Conference Board says Ontario's manufacturing communities are suffering the most. Among the eight hardest hit, seven are in Ontario. The exception is St. John's, N.L., which will experience a 3.6 per cent gross domestic product retreat this year due to sharply reduced oil production.

The other members of the slumping eight are Sudbury (minus 4.0 per cent), Thunder Bay (minus 3.1), London (minus 2.8 per cent), St. Catharines-Niagara (minus 2.7 per cent), Kitchener (minus 2.6 per cent), and Oshawa (minus 2.5 per cent).

Of the 14 cities studied nationally, only Saint John, N.B., will experience growth this year, although a modest 0.9 per cent.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Free Daily News Group Inc., operating as Metro Toronto 1 Concorde Gate, Suite 703, Toronto, Ontario M3C 3N6. Publisher: Bill McDonald

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Girl dead in freak accident
A 14-year-old girl has died after the collapse of a washroom wall at a park in Guelph. The Grade 9 student was rushed from the site shortly after the wall broke away. The girl was taken to hospital, but died. Her name has not been released. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Local

Court upholds order against surgeon

Ontario's medical watchdog was right to demand cosmetic physician Dr. Behnaz Yazdanfar, left, stop conducting surgical procedures on patients, a panel of three judges has ruled. The divisional court finding rejects Yazdanfar's attempt to return to business after the College of Physicians and Surgeons issued a rare order against her last month. Yazdanfar, a 39-year-old physician who has specialized in cosmetic procedures since 2000, may now only assist other surgeons in a hospital setting and cannot provide pre- or post-operative care pending the outcome of a disciplinary hearing. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

INDEX

Canada Pg 8
World Pg 13
Business Pg 18
Comment Pg 20
Sports Pg 21
Workology Pg 23
Metro Drive Pg 27
Travel Pg 36
Entertainment Pg 47
TV Listings Pg 52
Celebrity Buzz Pg 53
Take Five Pg 54

Tomorrow's Metro

Food

Barb Holland gathers recipes for a monster Father's Day meal.

metronews.ca

WHAT'S ONLINE TODAY

Blogs Internets explains why Twitter's role in the Iranian protests is just the beginning of the next revolution in social networking

Video Canadian combat engineers patrol one of the Afghan mission's most dangerous jobs — defusing IEDs at **metronews.ca/canada**

Video The Internet was quietly feeding Iranian dissent long before this election at **metronews.ca/canada**

Lotteries

Ontario Pick 3: 2 1 8; **Ontario Pick 4:** 2 8 8 4
Encore: 6595953
Daily Keno: 2, 4, 7, 10, 11, 12, 14, 22, 27, 28 30, 35, 37, 42, 43, 45, 55, 62, 69, 70
These results are not official.

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City hopes tourist season heats up

Visitor numbers are down, but not out, as Toronto eyes summer start

A weaker U.S. dollar and a decline in corporate travel are hurting Toronto's tourism, says the chief executive of Tourism Toronto.

But David Whitaker says he still hopes tourism can hold its own this year.

"These are challenging times," he acknowledged. "Generally, we welcome about 11 million overnight visitors to the GTA. For the first five months of this year, we've been running about 12 per cent behind on hotel performance.

"Destinations all over Canada and all over the United States are seeing declines in overnight visitors, so we're all working extra hard," he said.

"One of the things we're focusing on is regional travel. A lot of people are staying closer to home. Canadians staying in Canada."

Canadian tourists are more important than ever, he said.

"There's about 2.2 million American overnight visitors each year, and that market has been declining for several years now. The strength of the dollar has its impact."

Although early results are soft, they're not disastrous, Whitaker said.

"Being down 12 per cent is a lot better than being down 30, 40 per cent," he said. "We need to see how long the rebound takes.

"Ask me in three months how we're doing."

Business travel is also off.

"About 20 per cent of our business is from corporate travel, meetings and the like. A lot of businesses are postponing meetings. Meetings are smaller. So that's had an impact."

Tourism Toronto will spend about $6 million marketing the city this season, he said.

"We're doing everything we can to stay active, stay aggressive in the marketplace.

"We're doing more online," he added. "Our own website, seetorontonow .com, is all about eyeballs.

"We also continue to work in traditional media, travel sections of newspapers and magazines, lifestyle publications."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

THE PHOTO FOR TORONTO SUN/QMI AGENCY

David Whitaker, CEO of Tourism Toronto, stands outside of Wayne Gretzky's.

Baby safe after reported abduction

What was believed to be the abduction of an infant in a random carjacking ended peacefully yesterday, after the one-year-old boy was found safely in the care of his father.

"We have actually located the child who we thought was missing and we are pleased to report he is in good condition without any injuries," Const. Laurie Perks of York Region police told CP24.

"We have actually located the child who we thought was missing."
Const. Laurie Perks

About 90 minutes earlier, the boy's mother reported her car stolen, with her one-year-old son strapped in a car seat inside.

CP24 said police on the scene said the parents had an argument in the parking lot outside a Costco store in Markham, north of Toronto.

The boy's father left in the car, and the mother reported it stolen.

Perks said she was relieved the child was safe, and that they did not have an actual abduction on their hands.

Ontario to deal with isotope shortage

CRISIS Ontario will pay for an alternative diagnostic procedure for some 2,000 cancer patients in response to the global shortage of radioactive isotopes.

David Caplan

The Ministry of Health is putting aside $1.4 million in one-time funding to produce an alternative isotope called sodium fluoride.

Health Minister David Caplan calls the initiative an innovative solution to "ensure Ontarians have access to important diagnostic procedures." THE CANADIAN PRESS

MORE COVERAGE, PAGE 12

News in brief

ACCIDENT A 23-year-old Burlington man is dead after he was crushed between a Jeep and a tree in Oakville Monday afternoon. Halton police were called to the Glenorchy Conservation Area in Oakville where they say an Army Jeep carrying four young men spun backwards out of control after stalling on a steep dirt hill. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Man in custody after stabbing

INCIDENT A 23-year-old man has turned himself into police after allegedly stabbing a man on the street for his cellphone.

The incident began shortly before 6 p.m. Monday when the victim, in his 20s, was waiting for two friends when he was approached by a man with a 10-inch knife, police said.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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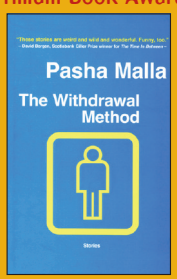

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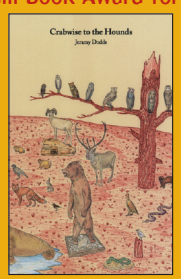

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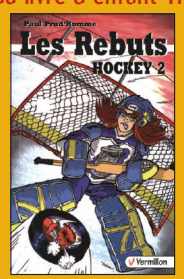

Les Éditions du Vermillon

Arrests made in delivery robberies

Two young men have been arrested after a series of pizza delivery drivers were robbed in Burlington in May. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Ritzy salon wars

Lawsuit claims client lists are salon property

A dispute between two of Yorkville's ritziest hair salons has degenerated into a sniping war involving seized garbage, surprise searches and a $6.4-million lawsuit.

The fight centres on Glo Salon & Spa, a high-end beauty purveyor on Avenue Road that caters to some of the city's wealthiest women. A cut and a colour at Glo starts around $200 and goes up quickly.

"(Hairstyling) is a dirty little business," laughed Luis Pacheco, co-owner of nearby Hair on the Avenue, who is watching this scrap from the sidelines.

Three years ago, hairstylist Perry Neglia and a partner sold Glo to Mary Louise Abrahamse, who was new to the salon business.

As part of the $450,000 sale, Neglia agreed to continue working at Glo for a year and not to open a competing business for three years.

It's not clear who did what to whom over the next three years, but it's plain that relations between Abrahamse and some of her new staff became strained.

On April 1, the day after his non-compete clause expired, Neglia opened a rival salon 100 metres up the street, calling it Gliss. Over the next several weeks, a steady stream of Glo hairstylists and colour technicians followed Neglia the short walk up Avenue Road.

More importantly, "a high percentage" of their clients came with them, according to Neglia. He and his new staffers contacted longtime customers to let them know about the switch.

"She thinks she bought the clients," Jarmil Kulik, Neglia's new partner and a former Glo stylist, said of Abrahamse.

"And nobody does that," said Neglia.

As a result, Glo was left with a denuded staff without well-developed client rosters, according to Abrahamse's lawsuit. One of her lawyers, Bob Klotz, said in an interview that his client's business has been "destroyed." Abrahamse declined comment.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

SARAH DEA/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

An ugly fight has broken out in the beauty business, pitting two of Yorkville's ritziest hair salons against each other. At issue is whether hair stylists and colourists "own" their list of clients.

Dome's Hard Rock takes a bow

It has weathered home run blasts off its windows from baseball sluggers Barry Bonds and Carlos Delgado, but the Hard Rock Cafe in the Rogers Centre apparently can't handle the current economic downturn.

A brief written statement from Hard Rock International yesterday stated the restaurant chain won't be renewing its lease when it expires Dec. 31.

The strong-windowed restaurant has been a fixture at the Rogers Centre (formerly SkyDome) since it opened 20 years ago, but a late afternoon visit yesterday found far more staff than customers.

The restaurant, originally owned by the Bitove family, drew praise from sports journalists and travel writers, including John Devine of the Monterey County Herald, who wrote in 2003 that the park's three defining features were its retractable roof, its hotel and the restaurant.

"Hard Rock has enjoyed a rich history ..."
Company statement

Staff referred an interview request for this article to the head office of the Hard Rock chain. It took five days for the chain to respond.

"Since opening its doors in 1989 ..... Hard Rock has enjoyed a rich history and appreciated the opportunity to serve fans visiting the Rogers Centre," the announcement stated.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Robbery results in school lockdown

HEIST Toronto police are on the hunt for a man after a robbery at a pharmacy on Summerhill Avenue sent a man and woman to hospital yesterday.

Toronto police say a man armed with a handgun entered Marshall's Pharmacy on 412 Summerhill Ave. at around 10:30 a.m.

One of the pharmacists, a man, was slashed on the arm by broken glass. Another pharmacist, a woman, sustained a broken leg after falling on her accord. Police say there was no struggle between the suspect and the victims, and no shots were fired.

Police cannot confirm what the man was seeking, or what was taken from the pharmacy.

After the robbery, the man fled across a railway track near Moore Park.

As a precaution police placed two schools under lockdown, Whitney Public School and Our Lady of Perpetual Help. The lockdown was lifted shortly after 11 a.m. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

News in brief

INCIDENT A 12-year-old girl is safe after two men forced her into a vehicle, and then subsequently dropped her off in a wooded area in Scarborough Monday afternoon. The girl managed to find her way to a store to receive help, said Const. Wendy Drummond. The suspects are described as in their 20s, both black with slim builds. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Dump truck crash lands one in hospital

A passenger of a dump truck is in hospital with life-threatening injuries after the vehicle crashed into a barrier on Highway 427, throwing the man from the vehicle and scattering cement and debris across the roadway. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Tory candidates address the issues

Christine Williams

News **Analysis**

SUBMITTED PHOTO

Christine Williams, right, speaks with Progressive Conservative leadership candidates yesterday on her show, On The Line, Von CTS.

Three Ontario PC candidates joined me live for an hour of On t The Line at CTS TV. The fourth, Randy Hillier, joined us by phone.

Subjects of tax relief and supporting business growth drew the strongest, unified support among the four. The harmonized tax was ganged up on. One promise was made to Ontarians: Should the PCs form the next Ontario government, citizens of Ontario can look forward to a relief from the harmonized tax. Concerning bailout packages, the candidates expressed grave concern about too much government ownership, citing GM as an example and warned that big government undermines private sector competition.

The major issue of contention among the candidates was about the Ontario Human Rights Commission. Tim Hudak and Randy Hillier want to see it abolished. Frank Klees accused Hudak of polarizing the party over the issue, preferring a return to the commission's original mandate of protecting minority groups against barriers to employment and tenancy. Christine Elliott, meanwhile, warned that to abolish the commission would mean handing over the next election to Dalton McGuinty.

Here's some of what the candidates represented individually:

Klees supports "fiscal and social responsibility," emphasizing strong business growth. He accused the McGuinty government of stifling this needed growth with over-regulation and red tape. He advocates a stronger private sector and less government to bounce back economically.

Elliott emphasized a need for compassion in the Conservative camp, citing a vision to see charitable tax credits double as an incentive to help the province's most vulnerable. She advocates an eight per cent flat tax and stressed the need for a multi-faceted plan to facilitate economic growth, including the choice of a 60-hour work week.

Hudak openly supports traditional Conservative right-wing policies with protection of middle class interests. He scolded McGuinty for "unaffordable collective bargaining agreements with unions." He warned of a shrinking private sector and a growing public sector of which the taxpayers can no longer afford to sustain.

I asked Hudak whether he had apprehensions about former Ontario premier Mike Harris' endorsement of him; he answered that he was proud to have his support, complimenting Harris' ability to unify the party.

Hillier advocates for "everyday people." He wants to end the practice of big bureaucracy and large unions, accusing McGuinty of using the harmonized tax to pay for a growing public sector. Being founder of the Ontario Landowners Association and a rural activist, Hillier called for equality between urban and rural Ontarians.

On June 27, the party chooses its new leader with its vision to stimulate the economy through business and tax incentives.

Christine Williams is the producer and host of the live current affairs daily talk show On the Line at CTS TV in Burlington, Ont.

News in brief

CHICKENS Keeping chickens is prohibited everywhere in Toronto except on land zoned for agriculture. But Toronto officials are studying what rules would be needed to allow chickens as part of an urban agriculture policy that could include apartment composting and more community gardens in city parks. Big cities like New York and Chicago allow backyard chickens to varying degrees.

STRIKE Anxious parents will learn today whether day camps and summer programs will be available if the city's two biggest union locals walk off the job Sunday night. Toronto officials say they'll announce contingency plans for city services as talks with the two union locals continue.

STABBING An 18-year-old man was airlifted to hospital after he was stabbed in the stomach in the lobby of a Markham high school. He was airlifted to a hospital trauma centre where he remains in serious condition, said York Const. Gary Phillips. A second teen came to a police station just before 1 p.m. with a stab wound, but his injuries are considered to be minor. A 16-year-old and 17-year-old are in police custody

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Payette ready for blast-off after delay

Canadian astronaut Julie Payette, left, is in good spirits as she and six American crewmates await a second attempt at blast-off for the International Space Station. NASA will try to launch them aboard the Space Shuttle Endeavour today after repairing a hydrogen gas leak that thwarted the first attempt last Saturday. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada

Allegations tie project with Mafia

Provincial police are investigating allegations of extortion and Mafia-meddling in a $10.6-million contract to fix the roof at Montreal city hall. Mayor Gerald Tremblay, left, says he has spoken to police about the allegations, made public in yesterday's edition of Montreal La Presse. A contractor was reportedly told to pay $40,000 to two city councillors by a person with ties to the Montreal Mafia to ensure that he kept the contract to replace the roof. THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in brief

FUNDING A Commons committee has recommended MPs give more money to the government's spending watchdog. The parliamentary budget officer is woefully underfunded, the Library of Parliament committee said yesterday, recommending his 2009-10 budget be raised to $2.8 million from $1.86 million. Kevin Page's current budget is $323,000 short of his projected spending for the fiscal year and well short of the $2.75 million he was supposed to get before his budget was cut.

TRAFFICKING A U.S. report on human trafficking says Canada has the laws needed to prosecute human traffickers and sex tourists, but penalties dished out by the courts are lax. The annual report issued yesterday by the U.S. State Department also notes criticism by non-governmental organizations that say there isn't enough communication among law enforcement on the problem. THE CANADIAN

Balsillie shrugs off NHL bid rejection

Jim Balsillie isn't giving up on his quest to bring an NHL team to Hamilton even though a U.S. bankruptcy judge rejected the Canadian billionaire's bid to buy the Phoenix Coyotes.

Balsillie's spokesman, Bill Walker, says the ruling from Redfield T. Baum is just the latest step in the process.

During a news conference in Toronto yesterday, Walker said the Balsillie group wants fans to voice their support and will be emailing members of its Make It Seven website in the coming days to explain how they can get involved.

"The commitment remains completely unchanged," said Walker. "He's committed to Hamilton, he's committed to Copps Coliseum. He just sees this as another day at work, another day at the office."

Richard Rodier, Balsillie's lawyer, said he expected his client to submit a new motion to buy and move team. However, Rodier added there has been no communication between Balsillie and Jerry Moyes, the Coyotes' majority owner. THE CANADIAN PRESS

NATHAN DENETTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Bill Walker, left, spokesman for Jim Balsillie, and Richard Rodier, right, legal counsel, listen to questions yesterday during a press conference in Toronto.

It's not over yet: Hamilton officials

Hamilton politicians aren't giving up on the idea of getting an NHL team in their city, but local fans aren't so sure.

Mayor Fred Eisenberger said "the issue is still very much alive," while Ontario NDP Leader Andrea Horwath — a Hamiltonian — called the ruling "a minor delay of game."

However, laid-off steelworker Marty Barone said buying tickets to support a local NHL team is the last thing on the minds of the thousands in the city who are out of work. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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New Brunswick lends a hand

The New Brunswick government is helping to create 300 jobs at a software company with locations in Fredericton and Moncton. The province is kicking in $7,544 for each of the 300 full-time, permanent positions. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Harper, Ignatieff hold meeting

Liberal leader demands answers for EI, deficit and isotope crisis

SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Liberal Leader Michael Ignatieff is seen leaving a meeting with Prime Minister Stephen Harper yesterday in Ottawa.

Stephen Harper and Michael Ignatieff met for more than hour yesterday and agreed to sit down together again last night in an effort to find common ground and avoid a summer election.

Spokesmen for both the prime minister and the Liberal leader called the meeting "productive," but provided no other details.

Ignatieff simply waved as he left the Prime Minister's Office across the street from Parliament.

The pair agreed to meet after Ignatieff demanded answers to key economic questions in exchange for keeping the minority government afloat."

Specifically, Ignatieff wants to know: Details of Harper's proposal to change the employment insurance system; when the ballooning deficit will be eliminated; how much money has been spent on stimulus projects; and how the medical isotope crisis will be addressed.

If he doesn't like the answers, Ignatieff could bring the government down in a confidence vote Friday on supplementary budget estimates.

Harper invited Ignatieff to the meeting, but he also emphasized that he can't act on complex issues such as EI in a matter of days.

Both leaders insist they don't want a summer election. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Ottawa holds tight on Arctic flotilla ideas

ARCTIC The federal government has put off asking shipbuilders for ideas on the construction of a flotilla of Arctic patrol boats, a sign the two-year-old program is in trouble.

The navy's project management office advised the defence industry on June 10 that the long-anticipated letters of intent had been delayed.

"The extent of the delay is unknown at this time," said the note.

The Conservatives have said the Arctic is a priority as competition for boundaries, particularly Russia, intensifies. But the heavy cost has increasingly given them pause.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Ice boats

- Prime Minister Stephen Harper announced in July 2007 that the navy would acquire ice-capable vessels for the Arctic.

Nanaimo **Day on the water**

JONATHAN HAYWARD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

A passenger takes in the scenery and sunny weather yesterday aboard the Coastal Renaissance ferry, from Horseshoe Bay to Nanaimo, B.C.

News in brief

ECONOMY More than 90 per cent of the economic stimulus planned for this fiscal year will continue to flow whether or not opposition parties force an election Friday. And that fact blows a big hole in Prime Minister Stephen Harper's best argument for avoiding a summer vote. "I think it's largely bogus," says Allan Maslove, public policy and administration expert at Carleton University.

HONOURED Canadian astronaut Robert Thirsk is getting an honorary degree from the University of Calgary for his out-of-this-world achievements.

LAWSUIT A national search-and-rescue association says a lawsuit filed by a Quebec skier that prompted a search team in Golden, B.C., to shut down could have a "ripple effect" across the country.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Medical group picks new president
A Halifax-based family doctor is the new president of Médecins Sans Frontières/Doctors Without Borders Canada. Joni Guptill, a veteran of humanitarian emergencies, was chosen by board members following the independent medical organization's general assembly in Montreal earlier this week. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada agrees to stricter controls on Afghan hired guns

Canada quietly signed an international agreement on regulating private security companies in war zones just weeks after a Canadian soldier was allegedly shot by a contractor during a confused firefight in Afghanistan last summer.

But it's unclear what the government is doing to keep the hired guns on its payroll in check.

Canada was one of 17 countries to agree last fall to the Montreaux Document, which lays out responsibilities for the use of hired guns under international law.

Others nations have since signed on and the United States is among those in the process of enacting tough new regulations.

But except for a passing reference in the House of Commons last month, the Conservative government has been silent not only on the accord, but about measures it takes to hold security contractors accountable.

NDP defence critic Jack Harris said he believes a lid of secrecy was clamped over the agreement to prevent embarrassment and public scrutiny on the use of private security firms in Afghanistan.

"If they had a rule book and they followed it, you'd think they'd be very happy to tell you about it," Harris said.

The Defence Department directed questions to the Foreign Affairs Department, which did not answer by late yesterday afternoon.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Afghan role

- The Canadian army uses private security companies to guard road-building projects and to protect help forward operating bases.

Experts question Tory parole plan

INMATES The Harper government says it wants to increase victims' rights while getting tougher with inmates who break prison rules or violate parole conditions.

But critics say the latest move in the Tory law-and-order agenda would actually increase public risk in the long run.

Public Safety Minister Peter Van Loan said legislation proposed yesterday would offer victims more information about inmate parole and rehabilitation.

If passed, the changes would also create new penalties for inmates who throw urine at guards or act out in other ways.

Police could also immediately arrest without a warrant any offender suspected of breaching release conditions.

Adam Boni of the Criminal Lawyers' Association warned the move would increase pressure on overstretched prisons that are already struggling to rehabilitate inmates.

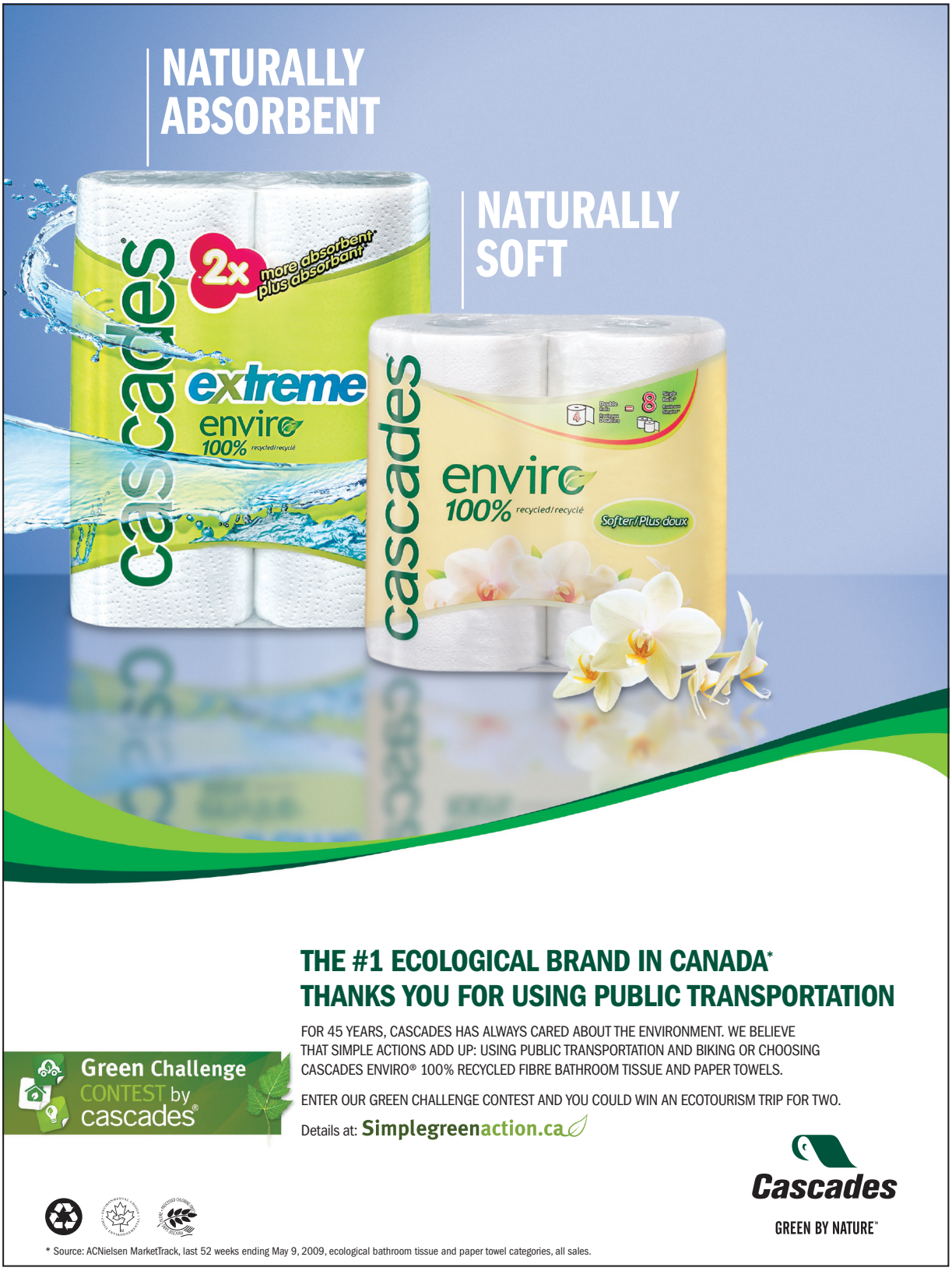
"This government says society is safer as long as we can keep them locked up for as long as possible. In fact, what this approach does is create a powder keg in the federal penitentiary system," he said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in brief

CHARGES A 23-year-old man is facing charges after 11 people were taken to hospital because of possible chemical reactions from a swimming pool south of Walkerton, Ont.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Out-of-control blazes spark appeal for more firefighters

Alberta called for firefighting reinforcements yesterday as wildfires sparked by lightning strikes threatened to isolate Fort McMurray, Canada's oilsands capital. The province already has 600 people fighting 17 out-of-control fires. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Flaherty encouraged

New rosier outlooks for the Canadian economy are giving the federal government a boost.

The most recent batch of economic reports have seen a number of respected private sector institutions revise their projections for the world and Canadian economies.

That's not unusual.

But what is new is that for the first time in about a year Ottawa is revising its projections for growth upwards and for unemployment downwards.

Citing recent Bank of Nova Scotia and Royal Bank updates, Finance Minister Jim Flaherty said he is encouraged the Canadian economy is on the mend.

His plan to get out of deficit in four years is on track, he says.

As well, Global Insight and the TD Bank published new forecasts yesterday, each showing an improvement over their previous outlooks.

With the exception of the TD Bank, which remains the outlier on the pessimism scale, many experts see Canada's economy rebounding to a moderate but solid rate of about 2.5 per cent next year.

TD Bank's chief economist believes the rebound will be more muted than many analysts are assuming. Royal Bank's economist believes the availability of cheap credit should be able to carry economic growth forward.

Flaherty said there has been a dramatic increase in job sharing.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Finance Minister Jim Flaherty answers questions yesterday in the House of Commons.

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Pulp mills set for $1B bailout

ENERGY The federal government is set to announce a $1-billion package today to help Canada's struggling pulp and paper industry, sources say.

The aid will be in the form of grants that can be accessed over a three-year period by pulp and paper mills that make capital improvements to reduce their dependence on traditional energy sources.

A government official said the announcement will be made by Natural Resources Minister Lisa Raitt and Denis Lebel, the minister of state for economic development in Quebec.

The aid is in response to industry requests for Ottawa to counter the so-called "black liquor" subsidy to pulp mills in the United States, which has been estimated at between $6 billion and $8 billion.

Industry officials say the Canadian package will not contravene the softwood lumber agreement or the North American Free Trade Agreement.

"We will only welcome announcements that respect the terms of the softwood lumber agreement," said Avrim Lazar, president of the Forest Products Association of Canada.

Lazar conceded that being on the right side of the law may not be enough to stop America's powerful and litigious lumber lobby from contesting the aid as a subsidy.

But Lazar said he was confident the Obama administration would not oppose a measure that promotes the use of alternative energy sources by Canada's 71 pulp and paper mills.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

76,000

The number of people employed in Canada's pulp and paper mills.

$6 million no quick fix

ISOTOPES The Harper government has earmarked $6 million for research into alternatives to the radioactive isotopes produced by the downed Chalk River reactor.

"I think this investment will go a long way in the long term," Health Minister Leona Aglukkaq said yesterday.

But the money won't be a quick fix for hospitals.

The research grants will only start going out on Oct. 31.

Doctors have been hoarding a scarce supply of isotopes since Atomic Energy of Canada Ltd. shut down its aging Chalk River reactor. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Flu Outbreak

Four die in two provinces

HEALTH Manitoba and Quebec report a total of four deaths from influenza A (H1N1), also known as swine flu.

A man in his 40s from Winnipeg did not have any known health conditions when he died in hospital.

The second victim, a woman, also in her 40s, had "significant" health problems.

In Quebec, a man and a woman from Montreal are that province's latest deaths from the virus.

Six Quebecers have died from swine flu.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Montserrat PM wants election
The prime minister of the tiny Caribbean island of Montserrat is asking Britain to dissolve the local government and call elections for September — two years ahead of schedule. Lowell Lewis' letter says he is not receiving support from his party, but gives no details. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

World

Officer should be fired: Paramedic

The paramedic who scuffled with an Oklahoma police officer while a patient waited inside the ambulance says the trooper should lose his badge. Maurice White Jr. said yesterday on the CBS Early Show that trooper Daniel Martin was in a state of rage when he stopped his ambulance and totally disregarded the patient's safety. Martin stopped the ambulance May 24 for failing to yield. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

AHN YOUNG-JOON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A South Korean man watches a news broadcast this month about the two American journalists detained in North Korea.

N. Korea says journalists planned 'smear campaign'

NORTH KOREA Two American journalists sentenced by North Korea last week to 12 years of hard labour were caught shooting video for what the North said was a politically motivated "smear campaign," state-run media said yesterday.

The reporting team from Current TV crossed the frozen Tumen River dividing North Korea and China three months ago and walked up the river bank — and then recorded their transgression, the official Korean Central News Agency said. The two women — reporter Laura Ling and editor Euna Lee — were arrested in North Hamgyong Province, the report said. Last Monday, Lee and Ling were sentenced in North Korea's top court for what KCNA called politically motivated crimes.

"The accused admitted that what they did were criminal acts committed, prompted by the political motive to isolate and stifle the socialist system of (North Korea) by faking up moving images aimed at falsifying its human rights performance and hurling slanders and calumnies at it," it said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.S. will enforce penalties

Obama, South Korean president say concessions for North Korea over

Declaring North Korea a "grave threat" to the world, U.S. President Barack Obama yesterday pledged the U.S. and its allies will aggressively enforce fresh international penalties against the nuclear-armed nation and stop rewarding its leaders for repeated provocations.

In a display of unity with South Korea's leader, Obama said the world must break a pattern in which North Korea puts the globe on edge, only to put itself in line for concessions if it holds out long enough.

"We are more than willing to engage in negotiations to get North Korea on a path of peaceful coexistence with its neighbours, and we want to encourage their prosperity," Obama said at the White House alongside South Korean President Lee Myung-bak.

"But belligerent, provocative behaviour that threatens neighbours will be met with significant and serious enforcement of sanctions that are in place."

Obama's comments came at a time of intensifying concern, with the North stepping up its bomb-making activities and threatening war against any country that blockades its ships.

RON EDMONDS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.S. President Barack Obama and South Korean President Lee Myung-Bak speak during a White House press conference.

Emboldened by fresh assurances of protection by the United States, Lee went even further in warning that North Korea's tactics will not be tolerated.

Asked if he felt his country was under the threat of attack from the North, Lee said his country's alliance with the U.S. will "prevent anything from happening."

He said of the North Koreans, "They will think twice about taking any measures that they will regret."

Defiantly pursuing its nuclear ambitions, North Korea has posed a major foreign policy challenge for Obama. However, the new president has found support from the international community, including a swift resolution of sanctions imposed by the UN Security Council just last week.

The new punishments toughen an arms embargo against North Korea and authorize ship searches in an attempt to thwart the Koreans' nuclear and ballistic missile programs.

The UN however, did not authorize military force to enforce the measures. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News in brief

CHINA A Chinese woman who became a folk hero after fatally stabbing a Communist Party official to fend off his demands for sex was freed by a court yesterday, a decision that likely avoided a storm of public criticism over the carefully watched case. Deng Yujiao, 21, was accused of stabbing the official with a fruit knife and injuring his colleague when the two inebriated men cornered her last month at the hotel she worked in as a karaoke bar waitress. The Badong County People's Court found Deng guilty of causing injury with intent but spared her from punishment.

U.S. A judge raised bond to $20 million from $5 million for the man accused of killing U.S. abortion doctor George Tiller because of the suspect's threats, according to a transcript released yesterday. Scott Roeder told The Associated Press on June 7, "I know there are many other similar events planned around the country as long as abortion remains legal." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Abuses still rampant in Sudan: UN investigator

AFRICA The human rights situation in Sudan is "critical," an independent UN expert said yesterday, accusing the nation's government of cracking down on its critics and shielding those responsible for gross violations such as rape, torture and murder.

Sima Samar, the UN special investigator for Sudan, said Khartoum has stepped up its persecution of human rights activists, aid workers and journalists since the International Criminal Court issued an arrest warrant for Sudan's president, Omar al-Bashir, who is accused of war crimes and crimes against humanity.

In Darfur, where a six-year conflict has killed up to 300,000 people and uprooted 2.5 million, government forces and rebels continue to attack civilians, Samar said. "Impunity remains an ongoing and serious concern in all areas of Sudan," Samar told the UN in Geneva, adding that allegations of human rights abuses aren't properly investigated.

"Impunity remains an ongoing and serious concern in all areas of Sudan."
UN rep Sima Samar

"Many perpetrators of serious crimes, such as killings of civilians by state agents, have not been brought to justice and reparations have not been provided to victims," she said.

"Without Sima Samar, (President) Bashir will be handed carte blanche to do whatever he wants without serious monitoring of the situation," Sudanese human rights activist Osman Humaida told reporters. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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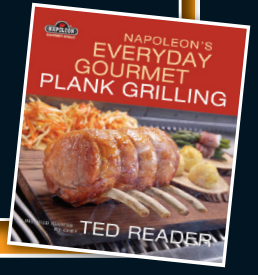

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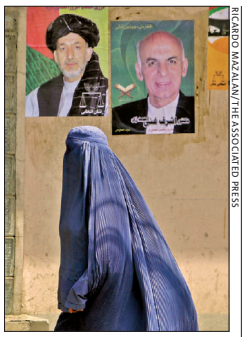
Carter dismisses security concerns
Israeli security forces say they spotted Hamas forces dismantling explosives along the route travelled by Jimmy Carter into the Gaza Strip. But the former U.S. president has dismissed the claim. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



RICARDO MAZALAN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A woman walks by campaign posters yesterday of Afghanistan President Hamid Karzai, top left, and an opposition candidate, Ashraf Ghani Ahmadzai, in Kabul.

Polls give Karzai edge in elections

AFGHANISTAN Oversize posters of President Hamid Karzai blanketed the Afghan capital yesterday as the two-month presidential campaign began. While Afghans on the street openly complained about Karzai's rule, a new survey showed why he is likely to win a second term: His opponents have almost no support.

The poll found that 31 per cent of 3,200 Afghans surveyed said they would vote for Karzai if the Aug. 20 presidential election were held today — a steep decline from the 55 per cent of Afghans who voted to give him a five-year term in 2004.

But Karzai is likely to take comfort with the survey's other results: 69 per cent of respondents had a favourable opinion of him, and 43 per cent of likely voters said he deserves a second term.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Close?

- Most strikingly, only seven per cent of respondents said they would vote for Karzai's closet competitor, former Foreign Minister Abdullah Abdullah

Opposing protests flare in Iran

Crackdown on media begins, foreign reporters forced to leave

Thousands of people waving Iranian flags and pictures of the country's supreme leader massed yesterday at a rally organized by the clerical regime in an apparent attempt to reclaim the streets hours after saying it would recount some disputed presidential ballots.

Later, a "massive" crowd supporting reformist challenger Mir Hossein Mousavi gathered in Vanak Square to the north, according to a correspondent for state-controlled English-language Press TV.

The government barred foreign media from covering rallies in Tehran — even the state-organized demonstration, where government officials urged the crowd not to let the election divide the nation and said the unrest would not threaten Iran's Islamic system.

The Press TV correspondent at the pro-reform rally told the anchor by telephone that a crowd she called "huge" and "massive" was carrying banners of Mousavi, wearing green headbands and covering their mouths in an apparent defence against tear gas.

The report could not be independently confirmed due to the media restrictions barring reporters for foreign organizations from reporting outside their offices.

Foreign reporters have begun leaving the country after Iran has revoked their work visas.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MONA HOOBEHFEKR/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

In this state-issued photo, demonstrators, some holding Iranian flags and standing on a construction tower, attend a state-organized rally yesterday in a square in central Tehran, Iran.

Obama comments

- In Washington, U.S. President Barack Obama said yesterday the disputed election revealed a change in expectations among voters and perhaps their leaders, but he stopped short of saying the balloting was rigged.

Hong Kong cardinal calls out to Vatican

RELATIONS The Vatican's top envoy for China says the time has come for the Holy See to get tough with Beijing and not compromise over religious freedom, saying relations are taking a "worrisome slide" for the worse.

Hong Kong Cardinal Joseph Zen said the Vatican shouldn't give so much importance to re-establishing diplomatic relations with Beijing, though such a move could trick people into thinking there is religious freedom in China when there isn't. Pope Benedict XVI has made improving tense relations with Beijing a priority of his papacy and has sought to unify the country's 12 million faithful under his wing.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Atheists

- China forced its Roman Catholics to cut ties with the Vatican in 1951 shortly after the officially atheist Communist Party took power.

England **A Royal tradition**

ALASTAIR GRANT/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A racegoer arrives wearing a stylish hat yesterday on the first day of the Royal Ascot horse race meeting at Ascot near Windsor, England. A leading event in the English social calendar, which is attended by all the major figures of Britain's royal family, has been run since 1711.

Russia opts to veto extending UN mission to help Georgia

POLITICS Georgia lambasted Russia yesterday for vetoing a resolution that would have extended the UN observer mission in the breakaway Abkhazia region, saying it showed Moscow's isolation from the world.

"Russia has used its veto power, which can be considered a failure of diplomacy," said Georgian Foreign Minister Grigol Vashadze. "The veto is like an atomic weapon — using it confirms the isolation of the user."

"The veto is like an atomic weapon."
Grigol Vashadze, Georgian minister

The small UN mission has been in Abkhazia for 16 years. It was deployed following the end of fighting that resulted in Abkhazian militias routing the Georgian army, expelling ethnic Georgians.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News in brief

GITMO Military lawyers can defend a Guantanamo detainee in federal court against charges that he participated in the bombing of two U.S. embassies in Africa, a federal judge ruled.

GAY A U.S. national advocacy group says the number of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people killed in bias-motivated incidents increased by 28 per cent in 2008 compared to 2007. The National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs released its annual report yesterday.

JAIL A top New York City correction official suspected of approving a bar mitzvah at a jail has submitted his resignation.

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Woodbine Centre
Yorkdale Mall
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2365 Yonge St. (north of Eglinton)
363 Front St. W (City Place)
455 Danforth Ave.
720 King St. W
38 - 1500 Royal York Rd.
8 - 1750 The Queensway
1184 Kennedy Rd.
3 - 2610 Weston Rd.
1061 St. Clair Ave. W
104 - 5050 Dufferin St.

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Mapleview Mall
Milton Crossroads Centre
420 Main St.

Brampton
Bramalea City Centre
2880 Queen St. E (Hwy. 7 & Airport Rd.)
55 Mountainash Rd. (Springdale Square)
10 - 80 Pertosa Dr.

Mississauga
Dixie Outlet Mall
Erin Mills Town Centre
Heartland Town Centre
Square One
Winston Churchill & 401
2458 Dundas St. W
6535B Mississauga Rd.
G16 - 3024 Hurontario St.
101 - 6200 Dixie Rd.
9 - 34 Bristol Rd. E
2 - 4920 Tomken Rd.

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Promenade Mall
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Vaughan Mills Outlet Mall
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Four years after killing, Egypt names new envoy to Iraq
Egypt appointed a new ambassador to Baghdad yesterday, ending a four-year hiatus after Cairo's chief envoy to Iraq was kidnapped and killed by al-Qaida. Named was career diplomat Sherif Kamal Chahine, the current envoy to Zambia. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mumbai's sad legacy

Memories of terror attack mar meeting of leaders

The leaders of India and Pakistan met on the sidelines of a summit in Russia yesterday, raising hopes they may be prepared to improve the strained relations between their nuclear-armed nations.

But it was evident last year's brutal terrorist attacks in Mumbai remain a big obstacle.

"My mandate is to tell you that Pakistani territory should not be used for terrorism against India," Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh said as cameras flashed and he shook hands with Pakistani President Asif Ali Zardari.

It was their first meeting since the three-day siege in Mumbai, India's financial centre, killed 166 people in November.

India has accused a Pakistan-based militant group of sending the teams of gunmen that rampaged through Mumbai.

Pakistani officials have acknowledged the attacks were partly plotted on their soil.

Pakistan's Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi downplayed Singh's reported remark and said the meeting itself was a positive development.

"I think the very fact that the two leaders are meeting at this summit for the first time since the tragic incident in Mumbai is positive," Qureshi was quoted as saying in Yekaterinburg.

The United States, a key ally of India and Pakistan, has made it clear it wants the neighbours to return to the negotiating table.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MIKHAIL METZEL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Pakistan President Asif Ali Zardari, left, and Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh meet yesterday during a summit in the Ural Mountains city of Yekaterinburg, Russia.

Torture fears hit U.K.

DETAINEES Britain has abandoned some attempts to gather intelligence from detainees held overseas for fear they may be abused.

But Foreign Secretary David Miliband also said yesterday he could not guarantee Britain's allies would refrain from abusing detainees.

Miliband was speaking to a parliamentary foreign affairs committee after recent revelations that flights carrying terror suspects have landed in Britain en route to foreign detentions centres.

Former Guantanamo detainee Binyam Mohamed has accused Britain of colluding with the U.S. in his alleged torture in Pakistan and Morocco.

"We abhor torture," Miliband said. But he acknowledged it can be difficult to be completely certain about the actions of partners overseas.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Obama's climate shock

WEATHER Harmful effects from global warming are already here and worsening, warns the first climate report from Barack Obama's presidency.

It's the strongest language on climate change ever to come out of the White House.

Global warming has already caused more heavy downpours, rising temperature and sea level, rapidly retreating glaciers, longer growing seasons and altered river flow, says the document, released by the White House science adviser and top officials.

"There are in some cases already serious consequences," said report co-author Anthony Janetos of the University of Maryland.

"This is not a theoretical thing that will happen 50 years from now. Things are happening now."

The authors say the average U.S. temperature could rise by as much as six degrees Celsius by the end of the century.

White House science adviser John Holdren said remedial action is needed sooner rather than later.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Bulgaria **Anger boils over in Sofia**

BETAR PETROV/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Teachers, doctors, miners, industrial workers and students shout anti-government slogans during a protest in Sofia, Bulgaria, yesterday. Thousands of Bulgarians led by the country's biggest labour union rallied to protest the government's "inactivity in tackling the economic crisis."

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Tentative deal announced to develop N.L. oil project

A tentative agreement has been reached to develop the Hibernia South offshore oilfield that gives the Newfoundland and Labrador government an unprecedented 10 per cent equity stake in the project. The stake would cost the provincial government $30 million. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Business

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GM finds buyer for Saab

AUTO Saab Automobile, General Motors Corp.'s struggling Swedish unit known for its family cars, was rescued yesterday by a consortium led by Koenigsegg Automotive AB, a tiny company that produces a dozen custom-made super cars a year.

Having penned a memorandum of understanding, GM said the sale would include an expected $600-million US funding commitment from the European Investment Bank, guaranteed by the Swedish government. Extra funding for Saab's operations and investments would be provided by GM and the consortium, it said.

ERIC J. SHELTON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Saab Automobile was saved yesterday by a consortium led by Sweden's Koenigsegg Automotive AB.

A source said GM will get nothing initially for Saab, but would be paid $150 million on top of the value of Saab's assets if the new company turns a profit.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Unions agree to deals

Air Canada lands tentative contracts with workers

Air Canada's restructuring plan got a boost yesterday from tentative deals with the last of its five major unions and news that the cash-strapped airline may be able to tap funds from federal agencies.

Air Canada announced that it has reached agreements with the Air Canada Pilots Association and the Canadian Union of Public Employees, which represents flight attendants. Three other unions had reached similar deals last week.

The tentative contracts include a pension funding holiday and equity restructuring.

The agreements are subject to a number of conditions, including Air Canada raising $600 million of new financing, ratification by union members and federal regulatory approval for the proposed changes to the pension contributions.

9,900
The approximate number of unionized workers who will be affected by the new contracts.

The Air Canada Pilots Association represents approximately 3,200 pilots and CUPE represents approximately 6,700 flight attendants. However, negotiations are continuing on the extension of the flight attendants' contract.

Airline analyst Jacques Kavafian said the deals make it less likely that the company will file for bankruptcy protection, especially since the federal government is rumoured to back a $600-million loan. Reports say that government agencies will provide $200 million.

Following the 21-month moratorium on past service payments, the deals require the airline to pay $150 million in 2011, $175 million in 2012, and $225 million in 2013.

That's considerably less than the maximum $645-million pension funding obligation that would have been required in 2009, said David Newman of National Bank Financial.

Unions would receive a 15 per cent equity stake in the airline, to be issued to a trust. Proceeds from the sale of the shares would be used to reduce the pension deficit, which at last count stood at $2.9 billion.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Suzuki to halt production of XL7

INGERSOLL Suzuki says it will discontinue production of its XL7 sport utility vehicle at the CAMI plant in Ingeroll, Ont., which it operates jointly with General Motors Canada.

Production of the SUV was temporarily halted last September due to poor sales.

The company said in a letter to its suppliers that it hoped the economy would improve, boosting sales of the XL7, but this hasn't been the case.

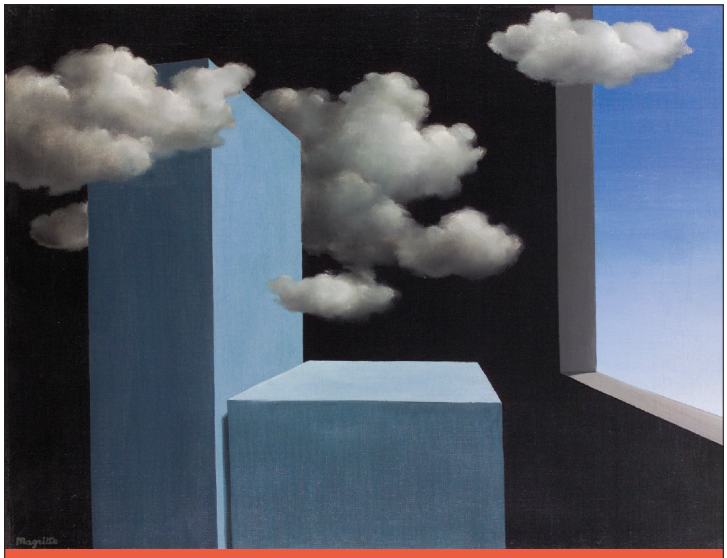
Canadian Auto Workers local president Dan Borthwick said no workers will be affected by the termination.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Business in brief

PENSIONS Stronger capital markets have given the CPP Investment Board incentive to sweeten its bid to about $2 billion for Macquarie Communications Infrastructure Group, a communications network company with operations in Australia and the United Kingdom.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



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René Magritte, *The Tempest*, 1931, oil on canvas. Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art, Hartford, CT. Bequest of Kay Sage Tanguy. © René Magritte / SODRAC (2009)

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ADVANCING GENERICS

Bombardier says CSeries a Canadian airplane
Bombardier Aerospace says its CSeries aircraft will be Canadian-built even though few of the suppliers are based in Canada. THE CANADIAN PRESS

MySpace slashes jobs

Social networking site to cut 30% of workers

MySpace said yesterday it is cutting nearly 30 per cent of its workforce in a bid to become more efficient, bringing its staffing level more in line with its more popular rival, Facebook.

The move comes less than two months after MySpace, a unit of Rupert Murdoch's News Corp., hired former Facebook executive Owen Van Natta, 39, as its new chief executive.

It also comes a day after data from tracking firm comScore show Facebook has caught up with MySpace in monthly U.S. visitors for the first time.

"Simply put, our staffing levels were bloated and hindered our ability to be an efficient and nimble team-oriented company," Van Natta said in a statement.

"Simply put, our staffing levels were bloated and hindered our ability to be an efficient and nimble team-oriented company."
Owen Van Natta, chief executive

The cuts amount to about 420 people, bringing the total number of MySpace's U.S. workforce to 1,000. As of May, Facebook had about 850 employees worldwide, the vast majority in the United States.

MySpace's user base has stagnated at about 125 million worldwide users, while Facebook said its usage has doubled to more than 200 million in less than a year.

But until now, MySpace still had the edge among U.S. users. Numbers from comScore show that in May, MySpace and Facebook both had about 70 million users apiece in the United States.

MySpace, however, generates more revenue, according to Internet research firm eMarketer; it estimates that MySpace generated about $605 million US in global advertising revenue last year, compared with $250 million for Facebook. MySpace's revenue is expected to shrink next year while Facebook's is seen as growing.

MySpace said the restructuring crosses all of its U.S. divisions.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Business in brief

ENERGY Engineering giant SNC-Lavalin says work will begin immediately on a $1.2-billion contract from Algeria's national oil company, which has chosen the Montreal-based engineering company to build a natural gas processing facility. SNC announced yesterday that work will commence at four various oil fields.

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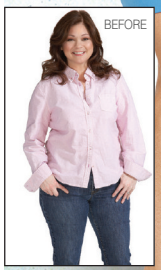

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Comment

Ironic emblem of failure

Problems continue to plague iconic Snowbird fleet

TheWestView

Paul Sullivan

metronews.ca/thewestview

The Snowbirds are grounded … again. You know about the Snowbirds? Those guys who turn up at air shows in their 40-plus-year-old jets expected to perform crowd-pleasing, death-defying manoeuvres?

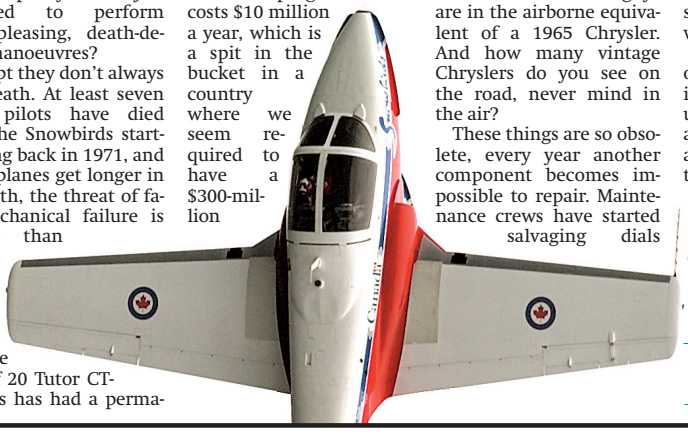
Except they don't always defy death. At least seven brave pilots have died since the Snowbirds started flying back in 1971, and as the planes get longer in the tooth, the threat of fatal mechanical failure is greater than ever.

And they don't always fly. The fleet of 20 Tutor CT-114 jets has had a permanent maintenance crew assigned to them since 2001, but that hasn't prevented the latest problem with the jet's ejection seat.

So they're grounded and, as I write, may not be ready for the big flypast on Parliament Hill on July 1. Not that you'll notice. The flypast takes about as long as it takes a politician to clear his or her throat.

Ahem. I've got to ask: How long are we going to keep this nonsense up?

The program costs $10 million a year, which is a spit in the bucket in a country where we seem required to have a $300-million election at least as often as a flypast, but the real cost is in human lives.



And what's the point? Why are we making these people take enormous risks in ridiculously outdated technology? It's like having a team of precision gondoliers or acrobatic shepherds, only more dangerous.

Quaint, but deadly.

Maybe if they were flying around in cool, state-of-the-art technology, I could understand, but these guys are in the airborne equivalent of a 1965 Chrysler. And how many vintage Chryslers do you see on the road, never mind in the air?

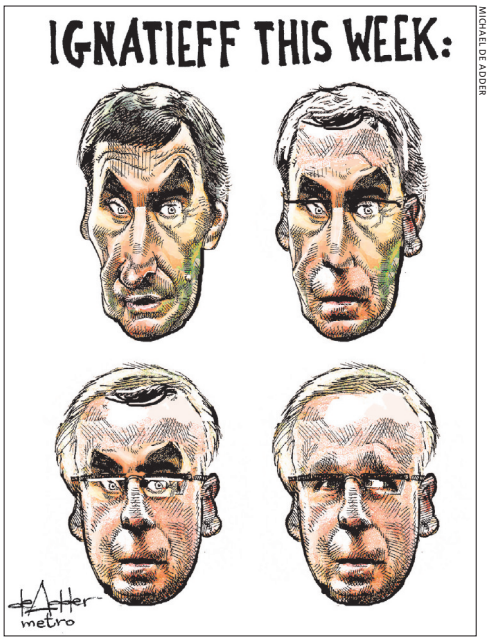
These things are so obsolete, every year another component becomes impossible to repair. Maintenance crews have started salvaging dials and tubes from other obsolete Canadian aircraft such as the decommissioned Hercules and sticking them on the Tutors.

Meanwhile, Canadians are busy getting blown up in Absurdistan. Our forces need all the help they can get, but instead they are hobbled with outdated, obsolete aircraft and ground equipment. If anything, the Snowbirds are an ironic emblem of the government's failure to adequately equip the people we insist on putting in harm's way.

The government is seriously thinking about keeping these guys in the air until 2020, when no amount of chewing gum and binder twine will keep them airborne.

I, for one, hope they stay grounded. But I must be a communist or some other kind of subversive. But I don't mind — it's safer than being a precision gondolier.

Paul Sullivan is a Vancouver-based journalist and owner of Sullivan Media Consulting; vancouverletters@metronews.ca.



MICHAEL DE ADDER

Word on the street: Should mixed martial arts be recognized as a legitimate sport in Canada?

Andrew Esquimoux, age 17, Toronto
A: Yeah … People sparring, having matches for championships, people having fun.

Alison Thomson, age 19, Toronto
A: If it's a physical sport, then yeah, why not.

Steven Pitawanakwat, age 21, Toronto
A: I believe it should be. I love the UFC (Ultimate Fighting Championship).

Gillian Wesley, age 23, Halifax
A: I don't think things like cage fighting should be. I think that with a sport based completely on violence, I wouldn't like to see it as a recognized sport.

Kevin Mcgillivray, age 43, Edmonton
A: Absolutely yes. It takes a lot of discipline and a lot of hard work for these fighters to be good at so many disciplines. In my opinion it's a lot safer than boxing …

Alex Ma, age 26, Calgary
A: Yes. It's a sport just like any other sport. It's a good time just as long as people understand the sport.

Letters

Money should be spent on suicide prevention for kids

Re: Social workers, not cops, should be in schools (June 12)

I would like to thank John Sewell for his insightful views on the need to invest the $2 million currently spent on having police officers in schools instead of preventative strategies, such as social workers and school supports.

I would also like to see it invested in developing a peer support program that helps prevent suicide among young people in schools; a much bigger killer in our schools than homicide.

Consider this: Suicide is the second biggest killer of young people between the ages of 15-24 in Canada, behind only traffic accidents.

Two million dollars could go a long way to safeguarding our children through education and support.

Let's focus where we can get the greatest impact, through a comprehensive suicide prevention project.

Our children's lives depend on it.

GARRY GREEN, TORONTO

Alarm bells ring for possible spread of influenza A virus

Re: No cause for alarm, doc says (June 12)

Canada has a considerable proportion of vulnerable people because of poverty and the recession with loss of health benefits, contemporary medications and treatment.

Ontario and Toronto have more difficulties: Low access to family doctors and a three-month waiting OHIP period for thousands of immigrants.

This public health environment provides sustainable sources of communicable diseases without reliable monitoring and efficient control of epidemics.

New developing flu vaccine or existing medications will be ineffective in such situations, which raises questions about public health.

Present Canadian leadership in the incidence rate of influenza A (H1N1), also known as swine flu, demonstrates that current public health, activity and responsibility is insufficient for all levels of authorities, professionals and society.

Are they real causes for alarm?

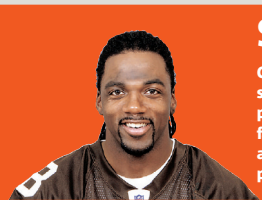
ROMAN POLOCHANSKY, TORONTO

Tell us your views by email to torontoletters@metronews.ca or comment on metronews.ca or on Twitter @metrotoronto
Letters must include sender's full name, address and phone number – street name and phone numbers will NOT be published. We reserve the right to edit letters.

U.S. Open to go ahead without Wie

Michelle Wie has failed to qualify for the U.S. Women's Open. Wie shot a 74 in the second round of qualifying yesterday, and missed by one shot. It will be the first major Wie has missed this year. Also failing to qualify were Natalie Gulbis and 18-year-old rookie Vicky Hurst. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sports



Stallworth serving time

Cleveland Browns wide receiver Donte' Stallworth, left, began a 30-day jail sentence yesterday for killing a pedestrian while driving drunk in Florida, a punishment made possible by his co-operation and the wish of the victim's family to put the matter behind them. Stallworth also must undergo drug and alcohol testing, will have a lifetime driver's licence suspension and must perform 1,000 hours of community service. METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: CHRIS.CLEMENTS@METRONEWS.CA

CFL's integrity intact, league commish says

ARGONAUTS B.C. Lions owner David Braley says he opened his wallet to assist in the purchase of the Toronto Argonauts because of his love of the CFL.

According to league commissioner Mark Cohon, Braley did nothing wrong.

Braley, Cohon and Argonauts owners Howard Sokolowski and David Cynamon issued a joint statement yesterday, responding to a Globe and Mail report that Braley fronted half the $2-million fee to purchase the Argos out of bankruptcy in 2003 and continued to lend the team money.

"I am a passionate supporter of our country and those things which make it unique and strong, including the Canadian Football League," Braley said in the statement. "For that reason, at a difficult time in the history of the Toronto Argonauts, I offered Howard Sokolowski and David Cynamon financial assistance … I have never directed the operations of the Toronto Argonauts, and I have certainly never been an owner of the Toronto Argonauts."

The Globe and Mail also reported Braley acted without the knowledge of then CFL commissioner Tom Wright nor Cohon.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

IOC short on sponsors

Organization $30M short of funds promised to VANOC

VANCOUVER 2010 Games

Despite a surplus, organizers for the 2010 Winter Olympics are bracing for tough economic times ahead, warning that the global recession will make the final eight months before the Games extremely difficult.

The International Olympic Committee has yet to secure two more international sponsors, leading to a $30-million shortfall so far in the money Vancouver organizers had expected to receive from them.

And the recession has scared off potential suppliers, said John McLaughlin, the Vancouver committee's chief financial officer.

"All of our partners and stakeholders are being impacted," he said during a conference call to discuss the committee's third-quarter financial report.

"It's obvious to everybody that we're in very tenuous and challenging financial times."

Third-quarter financial results show the organizing committee, known as VANOC, is running a $129-million surplus.

But that's mostly because of the timing of payments made to the committee and because of another strong round of ticket sales.

The $129-million quarterly surplus is down from the $146-million surplus tallied for the previous quarter.

McLaughlin said despite optimism from some economic forecasters, VANOC doesn't believe there will be a marked improvement in the 240 days before the Games begin.

The Vancouver committee is looking to make up the potential shortfall if the IOC can't find two more sponsors.

VANOC receives a portion of the proceeds from the international sponsors that the IOC collects.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Blue Jays Strong outing

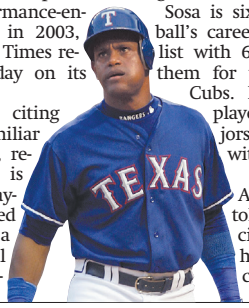
TOM MIHALEK/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Toronto starter Rickey Romero pitched seven strong innings against the World Series champion Philadelphia Phillies last night. The Jays won 8-3 in 10 innings.

Sosa failed 2003 drug test: Report

BASEBALL Former slugger Sammy Sosa tested positive for a performance-enhancing drug in 2003, The New York Times reported yesterday on its website.

The Times, citing lawyers familiar with the case, reported Sosa is one of 104 players who tested positive in a 2003 baseball survey. The paper did not identify the drug.



Sosa is sixth on baseball's career home run list with 609, most of them for the Chicago Cubs. He has not played in the majors since 2007 with Texas.

Sosa's agent, Adam Katz, told The Associated Press he had no comment on the report. Commissioner's office spokesman Rich Levin also had no comment, saying Major League Baseball didn't have a copy of the test results.

Los Angeles Dodgers slugger Manny Ramirez is serving a 50-game suspension for violating baseball's drug policy; just a few months ago, New York Yankees star Alex Rodriguez admitted using steroids from 2001-03 with Texas.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sports in brief

OLYMPICS Financial considerations should not drive the decision on which city hosts the 2016 Olympics, IOC president Jacques Rogge said yesterday on the eve of key presentations by the four candidates. Chicago, Madrid, Rio de Janeiro and Tokyo will make pitches to members of the International Olympic Committee today in a crucial test ahead of the vote in Copenhagen on Oct. 2.

BASEBALL Nationals manager Manny Acta says he's not worried about getting fired, even following one of the worst starts in major league history. "I don't worry about rumours," he said yesterday. "When your number is up, your number is up." Washington began yesterday a major league-worst 16-45, had lost 15 of its previous 18 games and was 6-23 on the road.

SUSPENDED Atlanta Braves minor leaguer Rafael Cruz has been suspended for 50 games by Major League Baseball after testing positive for a performance-enhancing drug.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

SCOREBOARD

MLB

AMERICAN LEAGUE

EAST	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	39	25	.609	-
New York	37	27	.578	2
Toronto	35	31	.530	5
Tampa Bay	34	31	.523	5.5
Baltimore	27	37	.429	12
CENTRAL				
Detroit	34	29	.540	-
Minnesota	32	33	.492	3
Chicago	30	34	.469	4.5
Kansas City	28	34	.452	5.5
Cleveland	29	37	.439	6.5
WEST				
Texas	35	27	.565	-
Los Angeles	33	29	.532	2
Seattle	30	33	.476	5.5
Oakland	27	35	.435	8

NATIONAL LEAGUE

EAST	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	36	26	.581	-
New York	33	29	.532	3
Florida	32	34	.489	6
Atlanta	30	32	.484	6
Washington	16	46	.258	20
CENTRAL				
Milwaukee	35	29	.547	-
St. Louis	34	30	.531	1
Cincinnati	31	31	.500	3
Chicago	30	30	.500	3
Pittsburgh	30	33	.476	4.5
Houston	29	32	.475	4.5
WEST				
Los Angeles	42	22	.656	-
San Francisco	34	29	.539	7.5
Colorado	31	32	.492	10.5
San Diego	28	34	.452	13
Arizona	27	37	.422	15

YESTERDAY

Atlanta at Cincinnati

TODAY

Atlanta at Cincinnati

INTERLEAGUE

YESTERDAY

TORONTO 8 Philadelphia 3
N.Y. Mets 6 Baltimore 4
Boston 8 Florida 2
N.Y. Yankees 5 Washington 3
Milwaukee at Cleveland
Chicago W. Sox at Chicago Cubs (PPD)
Houston at Texas
Arizona at Kansas City

TODAY

TORONTO at Philadelphia
Chicago W. Sox at Chicago Cubs
L.A. Angels at San Francisco
Milwaukee at Cleveland
N.Y. Mets at Baltimore
Washington at N.Y. Yankees
Florida at Boston
Houston at Texas
Arizona at Kansas City
Pittsburgh at Minnesota
Detroit at St. Louis
Tampa Bay at Colorado
Seattle at San Diego
Oakland at L.A. Dodgers
L.A. Angels at San Francisco

TODAY

TORONTO at Philadelphia
Chicago W. Sox at Chicago Cubs
L.A. Angels at San Francisco
Milwaukee at Cleveland
N.Y. Mets at Baltimore
Washington at N.Y. Yankees
Florida at Boston
Houston at Texas
Arizona at Kansas City
Pittsburgh at Minnesota
Detroit at St. Louis
Tampa Bay at Colorado
Seattle at San Diego
Oakland at L.A. Dodgers

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No charges for Ronaldo

Manchester United's Cristiano Ronaldo will not face any charges for crashing his Ferrari into a roadside barrier in January, police said yesterday. No one was injured in the crash. Ronaldo will likely be moving to Real Madrid later this month. METRO NEWS SERVICES

CARLOS OSORIO/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

O'Brian White, left, practises with Toronto FC teammate Dwayne De Rosario at BMO Field last month. White had his first full practice yesterday since suffering a knee injury in October.

'Huge step' for White

Injured first-round draft choice O'Brian White has taken "a huge step" on the comeback trail, participating in a full, on-field practice with his Toronto FC teammates.

"I'm happy," a smiling White, 23, said yesterday after a workout that included a small-sided game played across BMO Field and a scoring drill in which the players dove for headers and volleyed shots on net.

"I wasn't going 100 per cent but there was no pressure on my legs," he said. "They feel good.

"It's a huge step," he said of his first full practice in eight months.

White, a Jamaican-born forward who graduated from Scarborough's Lester B. Pearson Collegiate after moving here with his mom at age 16, has been out since tearing the anterior cruciate ligament in his left knee in a game last October during his senior year with the University of Connecticut Huskies.

As a junior, White topped Division I with 23 goals in leading the Huskies to a 20-3-1 record and the quarter-finals of the NCAA tournament.

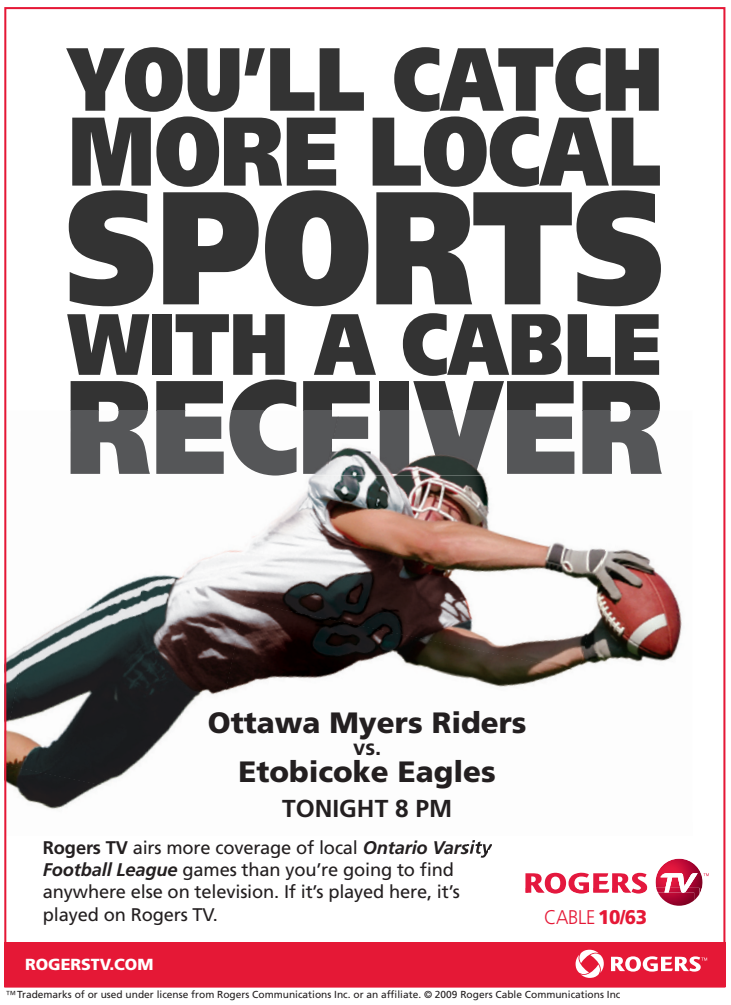
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Sports in brief

OLYMPICS Prague will not enter the race to host the 2020 Summer Olympics as planned due to the global economic crisis. The city council of the Czech capital voted 11-0 yesterday to cancel preparations for the bid, said Marketa Reedova, deputy mayor and council member. The decision is expected to be approved by Prague's municipal assembly tomorrow. The council took into account a report by PricewaterhouseCoopers, which recommended the city use the funds needed for staging the Games to ease the effects of the crisis.

TENNIS Canadians Frank Dancevic and Aleksandra Wozniak recorded major upsets yesterday in first-round action at the Eastbourne Championships. Dancevic knocked off top-seeded Russian Igor Andreev 7-6 (8), 6-2. The Niagara Falls, Ont., native, ranked No. 126 in the world, fired 11 aces and broke Andreev twice en route to the stunning victory. Wozniak followed with one of the biggest victories of her career, a 6-0, 6-3 triumph over French Open champion Svetlana Kuznetsova.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Metro Workology exclusive: Head to Toe
In the coming weeks Metro's Workology section will be setting its sights on the health industry and all jobs and careers therein. So be sure to read Workology and Metronews.ca/work for the special Head to Toe series.

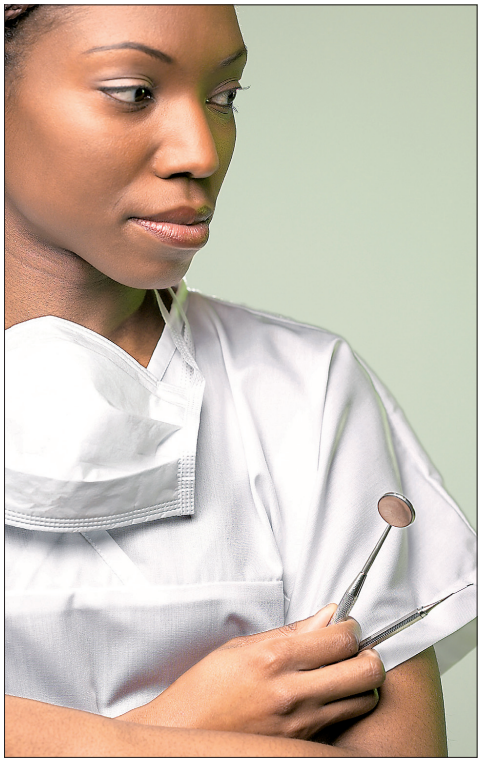
Workology

uAlberta med students the best

The Class of 2007 of the University of Alberta's medical school earned the highest grades on a national qualifying exam, making it the first time a uAlberta class scored top marks on the test, administered by the Medical Council of Canada. The two-part test involves a written exam delivered at the end of student's fourth year, followed by a practical clinical test 18 months later during graduates' residency periods. METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: DOUGLAS.DUNLOP@METRONEWS.CA

Polishing those pearly whites



Dental hygiene is a very popular program in many Canadian colleges, often having more applicants than spaces available.

Head to **Toe**

MAT LECOMPTE
for Metro Canada

Professional, punctual and ethical. Without those qualities, you need not apply.

Susan Rudin, the dental hygiene program co-ordinator at Toronto's George Brown college, takes pride in knowing that once the students in her program graduate, they are prepared for a challenging professional career.

"Our program is well respected and our students have the opportunity to learn from a well-established faculty who are experts in the areas they teach," she says. But if you're interested in the program, be sure to get on it early.

September's class is already full and competition to get in is quite stiff. Every year plenty of applicants apply for limited positions to take advantage of a number of unique opportunities offered by the college.

In fact, one of the main benefits of the program is the professional experience students receive through internships and job placements. The advantage of taking the community college approach to such a career is the fact that George Brown has a number of relationships with various dental institutions, allowing students to get firsthand experience in real world situations, says Rudin.

"The ideal candidate is someone who recognizes that it's a professional program for a job requiring plenty of responsibility," she says, adding that having an outgoing and personality will greatly increase the student's enjoyment of the program and career.

"My favourite part of the job is working with people," says Emily Wheelan, 25, of Toronto. "I see 10 people a day and I get to know them. It's fun."

Wheelan, who has been a dental hygienist for three years after graduating from Niagara College's dental hygiene program in Welland, Ont., says the job is enjoyable, pays well and provides a schedule that fits her lifestyle.

Rudin says when graduates are motivated and truly interested in pursuing a career in dental hygiene, it's almost guaranteed they'll land a job soon after they've started their search.

Dental hygiene could be a worthwhile career choice for anyone interested in health sciences, has great communication skills and is interested in working in a professional atmosphere. For more information on George Brown's program, visit their website at Georgebrown.ca.

For more of the Head to Toe exclusive series check Workology frequently or stop by:
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Metro Workology exclusive: Head to Toe
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Pharmacists focus on patients, not pills

Head to Toe

RAFAEL BRUSILOW
for Metro Canada

Escaping the ashes of a terrible war, Dragana Skokovic-Sunjic came to Canada to start a new life as a pharmacist, helping patients not only receive their medication but understand it as well.

Skokovic-Sunjic, 45, completed a four-year degree in Pharmacy at the University of Sarajevo in the former Yugoslavia and her first job was as a teaching assistant in the medical faculty. She left Sarajevo, today's capital of Bosnia and Herzegovina, in the 1990s to escape the war that tore apart the former Yugoslavia and came to Canada to finally pursue a career as a pharmacist because she found the pharmacists she met inspiring.

"I was always impressed with the professionalism of pharmacists behind the counter, so that's what inspired me," she said.

Now a pharmacist at Dell Pharmacy in Beamsville, Ont., Skokovic-Sunjic says coming to Canada to start a new life wasn't easy but she felt motivated to succeed in a field that she loved.

"Starting with a new country and a new language, it was a very challenging time but the challenge inspired me in a way," she said.

Along with dispensing medication, most pharmacists also maintain knowledge of various drugs and medicines and their interactions within the body, monitor drug therapy and, most importantly for Skokovic-Sunjic, interact with patients on a personal level.

Along with dispensing medication, most pharmacists also maintain knowledge of various drugs and their bodily interactions.

A mentor told her a long time ago that the secret to working with patients is to treat each one in the same way you would treat your own mother and Skokovic-Sunjic heartily agrees.

"Every patient is a person who has a history, preferences and story behind them. It's important to recognize that and appreciate that — patients can feel when they're appreciated," she said.

A sense of purpose keeps Skokovic-Sunjic motivated in her job as well as an innate feeling of responsibility to patients.

"The biggest reward is knowing that I'm making a change in people's lives and being recognized for playing a part in their health. You get to know patients and their families, so making a difference in their lives is very satisfying," she said.

Skokovic-Sunjic teaches continuing education seminars and shares her experiences and knowledge whenever she can because she believes in giving back to the community.

She advises young pharmacists to "make sure that you're comfortable connecting with patients because that's what it all boils down to. Yes, you are there to handle medication but ultimately it's the patients you're dealing with, not the drugs," she said.

For more of the Head to Toe exclusive series check Workology frequently or stop by: metronews.ca/work

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Can lying on your resumé lead to an 'unpaid vacation?'

WorkplaceLaw

"When it comes to your resumé, however, it's best to stick to the truth."

Too many employees operate under the delusion that minor lies on their resumés will not be uncovered or, if they are, will not matter. They may be mistaken. Studies reveal that resumé falsification is a common event. As many as 50 per cent of all resumés contain some degree of distortion — from white lies to outright whoppers.

While it is natural to expect that some form of embellishment on resumés will occur, there is a big difference between accentuating your strengths and creating new ones altogether. When it comes to full-blown lying on your resumé, the truth is that you can be fired.

When will lying on your resumé leave you looking for new work? Here are four legal points that the courts will consider:

- The false statement must be connected to the knowledge and qualifications the employer had in mind when recruiting you for the position. If the statement was about something completely unrelated to the position, you might be dishonest, but it may not be severe enough for a judge to consider it cause for dismissal.
- The content of the dishonest statements is important. Some false statements are actually viewed as less serious than others. For example, exaggerating your fluency in French, in most circumstances, won't be cause for termination, assuming that speaking French is not a specific requirement of that job. However, lying about having a specialized degree would probably be viewed as a serious workplace offence, considering that educational achievements are preferred considerations for most companies, regardless of the position being sought.
- The company must have relied on the statements you've made. In other words, if the company would not likely have hired you but for your dishonest statement, that conduct could justify your termination.
- The company's reliance on your false statement must have been reasonable. If your statement was entirely unbelievable to most people, yet your employer was wilfully blind or simply ignorant of obvious facts, it will have a more difficult time justifying the decision to terminate your employment after the fact.

Not every act of dishonesty justifies termination without notice. Often, context can come before content and a mere error in judgment can be overlooked, especially if there were mitigating circumstances, or an otherwise valid explanation. When it comes to your resumé, however, it's best to stick to the truth.

Daniel A. Lublin is an employment lawyer focusing on the law of dismissal; dan@toronto-employmentlawyer.com.

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Car entertainment most desired: Study
Among consumers who plan to purchase a vehicle in the near future, select entertainment- and connectivity-related features are among the most desired technologies for their consideration, according to a recent J.D. Power and Associates study. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Metro Drive

Students with a Vue
A student team from the University of Victoria placed second in the 2009 the EcoCAR Challenge, Canadian Driver reports. The competition focused on improving fuel efficiency in a 2009 Saturn Vue while retaining the car's performance and appeal. METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: KUMAR SAHA, KUMAR.SAHA@METRONEWS.CA

Kia dreams big with Forte

Stylish compact replaces Spectra

LORNE DRURY
for Metro Canada

2010 Kia Forte

Type: Four-door compact sedan
Price: $15,695 to $22,195
Engine: 2.0-litre I-4 engine (156 hp, 144 lb/ft); 2.4-litre I-4 engine (173 hp, 168 lb/ft)

Highlights

- Affordable
- Bluetooth in all models
- Improved, roomy design

The 2010 Kia Forte replaces the Spectra in the lineup and brings new styling pizzazz.

Building compact, economical cars has been Kia's forte over the years and for 2010 the Korean manufacturer has added a new Forte to its sales arsenal.

The 2010 Kia Forte replaces the Spectra in the Kia lineup and brings a touch of styling pizzazz that is gradually evolving for Kia, as it becomes more of a global player in the automotive marketplace.

Kia has an ambitious goal to be the "design choice brand without high product pricing" and the Forte is a great example of the current philosophy.

While not an in-your-face design, it is clean and attractive and a worthy challenger for the class leaders, Honda Civic, Toyota Corolla and Mazda3.

This is an extremely important vehicle for Kia in the most competitive class in the Canadian market. In fact, six of the top 10 cars sold in Canada compete directly with the Forte. And almost 50 per cent of all cars sold in this country are compact models, with the Civic, Corolla and Mazda3 accounting for about 40 per cent of that total. Heavy competition indeed, but Kia has high hopes for the Forte, a five-passenger sedan, starting at $15,695.

Available in three trim levels, the Forte has one of the roomiest interiors in its class. Built on an entirely new platform, the Forte has a longer wheelbase than the outgoing Spectra, which allowed engineers to increase the size of the interior package with room for five adults. The longer wheelbase also improves driving dynamics, while wider front and rear tracks increase stability on the road.

Trunk space is also up 17 per cent compared with the Spectra to 415 litres, the largest trunk capacity in its class.

Two brand new engines power the Forte. The LX and EX get a 2.0-litre DOHC in-line four-cylinder, producing 157 hp and 144 lb/ft of torque. The top-of-the-line SX has a 2.4-litre in-line four-cylinder engine, with 174 hp and 169 lb/ft of torque. Standard on the LX and EX is a five-speed manual transmission or an optional four-speed automatic. The SX gets a standard six-speed manual or an optional five-speed automatic with Sportmatic sequential manual shift.

Fuel economy is impressive — 8.3L/100 km (34 mpg) city and 5.8L/100 km (49 mpg) highway with the manual transmission and 8.1/5.8L/100 km (35/49 mpg) with the automatic.

Ride and handling was good for a compact, offering a significant improvement over the outgoing Spectra.

Ford takes on shopping carts

SAFETY Ford Motor Company has ushered in new, extreme tests — such as ramming shopping carts into car doors and blasting water cannons to force vehicles into skids — to fine tune new safety technologies.

"These novel tests may seem over the top, but they're part of a serious testing regimen that Ford had to invent, because increasingly sophisticated technologies require more advanced testing," said Sue Cischke, group vice-president, Ford sustainability, environment and safety engineering.

"We will continue to build on our safety leadership with advanced safety technologies that help enhance crash protection or even help customers avoid accidents."

In one of Ford's unusual tests to improve car safety, a lab robot repeatedly pushes a shopping cart loaded with a 110-pound weight into the vehicle doors at 10 miles per hour.

Ford engineers conduct unusual "crash" tests to take thousands of impact readings that help calibrate the sensitivity of new air bag pressure sensors being introduced on the new 2009 F-150 and 2010 Taurus.

Engineers, however, were concerned that everyday mishaps — such as shopping cart collisions in parking lots or errant basketballs from children — could trick the new sensors that now help predict crash forces before the full impact occurs. The engineers used reams of data from these unusual tests to calibrate the air bag sensor to disregard typically minor collisions. FROM CARGUIDE

Volvo XC60 in R-Design

The all-new 2010 Volvo XC60, initially launched with a 3.0-litre turbocharged six-cylinder engine, will now also be offered with a 3.2-litre six-cylinder, along with a new R-Design package. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Mad, mad Model T

AutoPilot

Mike Goetz

metronews.ca/autopilot

MICHAEL GOETZ/FOR METRO CANADA

Columnist Michael Goetz recently drove a Ford Model T.

Finally, I now know why cupholders were not standard equipment in 1908.

This is because I just drove a Ford Model T. To do so requires all your three hands, all your three feet, and a keen and constant appreciation of your mortality. At least until you get the hang of it.

The opportunity came from Ford Canada, who rounded up three Model Ts and their owners, as a sort of side dish for us auto scribes, who had come to its Oakville, Ont., headquarters for a Fiesta ride and drive event.

We had our pick of three different Model Ts and I chose Ken Gibson's 1926 Touring model. Ken said he would drive first, to show me the ropes.

The thing that makes the Model T a driving experience like no other is its "planetary" type transmission, and Ford's odd way of hooking it up to the motor. Net result: The Model T has three floor pedals, and not one of them is an accelerator.

During a short drive across the parking lot, Ken explained it all thoroughly, and even though I nodded at all the right intervals, I felt it slipping all away.

But I still wasn't too worried when I slid over to the driver's seat — it was a big parking lot with not too many obstructions. At the very worse, I could keep circling until I figured things out and/or we ran out of gas.

So here's the drill…

Release the hand brake and push the left-most (clutch) pedal all the way down to the floor.

This immediately launches you into forward motion, in first gear. If you want to stay in first gear you have to keep that pedal pinned to the floor.

Releasing the pedal all the way throws you into the only other gear — high.

To stop, you need to get off the gas (via the throttle lever mounted on the steering column), push the clutch pedal more or less midway to find neutral, and then use the right-foremost pedal, apparently called the brake.

When I had planned to stop, I wasn't quite stopping as planned, so Ken helped by shutting off the engine. He's a good man, Ken.

The middle pedal? Reverse.

I didn't try it, but here's what one of my all-time favourite authors, E.B. White, thought of the Model T's planetary reverse system.

"The Fords were obviously conceived in madness; any car which was capable of going from forward to reverse without any perceptible mechanical hiatus was bound to be a mightily challenging thing to the human imagination."

And this is from his famous 1936 essay, Farwell, My Lovely, which is a wistful look back and affirmation of all things Model T.

In 1999, a panel of 132 experts in 32 countries judged the Ford Model T to be the most influential car of the 20th century.

So a hell of a car yes. Easy to drive not so much.

Michael Goetz has been writing about cars and editing automotive publications for over 20 years. He lives in Toronto with his family and a neglected 1967 Jaguar E-type.

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Defunct brands don't always equate to collectibles

The only thing certain about the massive shakeup in the auto industry is that some familiar brands, such as Pontiac, will disappear when the shaking stops.

The end-of-an-era vibe often resonates with would-be car collectors who think the demise of a storied marque signals an opportunity to squirrel away a new or low-mileage example as an investment.

Mike Fairbairn tactfully suggests they reconsider.

Dead car companies are not like dead artists, he says. Their works don't inevitably rise in value.

When General Motors announced Pontiac would cease production at the end of the year, "my first thought was there's an awful lot of people out there going to waste a lot of money buying Pontiacs and putting them away."

Fairbairn is vice-chairman of RM Auctions of Bleinheim, Ont., one of the world's biggest purveyors of collectible automobiles, with more than $320 million US in sales last year.

RM, which also runs the world's largest classic car restoration shop, made headlines last month when a 1957 Ferrari 250 Testa Rossa sold for a record US$12.4 million at its auction at Ferrari headquarters in Maranello, Italy.

Packard, DeSoto, Studebaker, Rambler, American Motors, Oldsmobile, Plymouth. The list of defunct carmakers is long.

THE CANADIAN PRESS/GM

The 2006 Pontiac GTO, one of the few recent Pontiac models RM Auction vice-chairman Mike Fairbairn says may have collectible value in the distant future now that Pontiac is set to close.

And every time one succumbs, somebody thinks it's time to sock away a mint example as a nest egg.

"If you go back to the last year or two of any marque that's no longer made today, you can easily find examples with low or no miles that people put away believing that," says Fairbairn. "In general it's not true."

There's no such thing as an instant classic. It can take a generation or more to discover if a car will be desirable.

"The thing that kicks off the collectibility of a car or an era is almost always the nostalgic motivation," says Fairbairn.

Twenty years ago, the generation that came of age after the Second World War helped fuel interest in the finned and chromed land yachts of the 1950s.

In the last few years, aging baby boomers have driven some 1960s Detroit muscle cars deeply into six-figure auction prices.

"The cornerstone of value in a collector car is three things: Rarity, desirability and condition," says Fairbairn. "All three must be present."

"The thing that kicks off the collectibility of a car or an era is almost always the nostalgic motivation."
RM Auctions' Mike Fairbairn

The Pontiac GTO, a revival of the storied model that began the muscle-car era in 1964, was offered from 2004 to 2006 but was a sales flop.

But it meets some of Fairbairn's criteria although critics labelled the styling bland.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Coda eyes electric vehicle
Coda Automotive is planning to introduce an affordable Chinese-made, all-electric sedan in California in 2010. The company was formed and developed under the stewardship of Miles Rubin, who markets low-speed electric vehicles under the Miles Electric Vehicles brand. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Hip to be square

Boxy cars one of year's top auto trends

EMMA E FORREST
Metro World News

Critics might dismiss boxy cars as looking like a freezer on wheels, but the style is a hit with car design connoisseurs, and it's one of the biggest car trends of 2009.

The cube is a distinctive, futuristic, minimal shape for a car that sets the driver up high, making it a smaller, more economical MPV. The look was originally developed by Nissan, then Scion, to offer trendy teens in Tokyo and Los Angeles cool and original but affordable car design.

Don't expect hot rod power from these alternative cars — more the potential for mellow urban cruising with your homeys.

The original boxy car is the Nissan Cube, which launched only in Japan, in 1998. The 2009 version comes to the rest of us this year. With its cubic shape, tiny wheels, asymmetrical rear window and shag-pile rugs and it was exotically Japanese and had the "design classic" appeal of the iPod — this car is designed to be an extension of your home first, your mode of transport second.

There are plenty of other boxy cars including the Kia Soul, Daihatsu Materia, Citroen C3 Picasso, Honda Element, Fiat Qubo and the Scion xB. However, some of them are not yet available in North America.

I'm still waiting to drive the Cube, but I've tested all the others.

I was put off the Scion xB as it's so self-consciously geared towards "the kids," and the Fiat Qubo offers good value for money but is too cheap and slow for me. I like the chunky Kia Soul, but design-wise I prefer the Daihatsu Materia, which offers unmistakably Japanese styling, with its low-down boxy body.

But if I was to own one it would probably be the Citroen C3 Picasso. Boxy but pleasingly plump, you sit high up in the C3 Picasso, with great visibility all round, comfortable ride, plenty of boot-space, high quality interior fittings and lots of gimmicks to keep you amused.

Above, the 2009 Nissan Cube; below, the Scion xB.

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Do you know your tire's birthday?

JIL MCINTOSH
for Metro Canada

Wine and cheese can definitely improve with age. But those same passing years can have a detrimental affect on many other things, including your tires.

You've been told to replace them when they're old enough that the tread is worn out. But you should also be checking your tires' birthdays, and making sure they don't go beyond their "best before" date.

There are no regulations on tire age, although Transport Canada recommends not using tires that have been stored for more than six years, and replacing all tires at ten years from the date of their manufacture.

Your tire carries its birthday on its sidewall, but right now, the code isn't necessarily consumer-friendly.

It's not always easy to figure it out, or even to find it, since it currently doesn't have to be on both sides of the tire, and yours might be on the side you can't easily see.

Tips for your wheels

You're looking for a three- or four-digit number at the end of the tire identification number, which is a series of letters and numbers that starts with "DOT." If it's a four-digit number, the first two are the week the tire was made, and the last two are the year: 4207, for example, means it was made in the 42nd week of 2007.

The number went to four digits in 2000, so if you've only got three, go back a decade: 218 means the 21st week of 1998. There's also a possibility that it could be 1988, but in any case, a tire with only three digits is too old to be on a vehicle.

Tires wear as you drive on them, but as they age, they also dry out and become brittle, which can ultimately result in tread separation. Heat and oxygen are the main culprits, even in our cooler climate, since tires become very hot with friction when you're driving.

They can also deteriorate just by sitting, no matter how well they're stored. It's especially important to check your spare tire, which typically remains in the trunk when you replace the other tires, especially if it's a "doughnut" space-saver that doesn't get switched around. It could let you down just when you need it the most.

While reputable tire shops and retailers rotate their stock regularly, it's a good idea to check the manufacture date when you buy tires. It's very rare, but possible that the "brand-new" tire you've purchased is actually very close to or even over its recommended shelf life.

There's no regulation because the U.S. says it has to evaluate a reliable test method to determine a safe age, and evaluate the costs against potential safety benefits; Transport Canada says it's because its investigations haven't revealed a pattern of crashes caused by tire failure due to age at the time of sale. In other words, it's up to you.

Check the pressure monthly, watch tread wear, rotate them regularly, and remember their birthdays.

Your tire carries its manufacturing date on its sidewall, but right now, the code isn't necessarily consumer-friendly.

Car wash record attempt for charity

Toronto's CARSTAR Collision centres are joining forces with 140 other locations across North America for a car wash marathon to help set to a Guinness World Record this Saturday at 10 a.m. The event will also raise funds for the Canadian Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

ET Canada host Cheryl Hickey shares a BMW X3 with her husband.

Driving 'Miss Daisy'

MyDrive

Heather Buchan

metronews.ca/mydrive

Road trips are one of Cheryl Hickey's treasured pastimes. "There's just something about road trips where it's old-school kind of fun," says the sprightly ET Canada host. And this summer, the newlywed will be enjoying road trips to cottage country in style.

Following her wedding to Sportsnet producer Kevin Foley last October, the couple treated themselves to a BMW X3. Although her husband has a Volkswagon, the lease on Hickey's own car was up and the pair were searching for a more family-friendly replacement.

"We knew we were going to have a family in the near future, and we're pretty active. We play lots of golf and travel quite a bit," explains the 33-year-old who's five months pregnant with the couple's first child. "We can throw a lot stuff in [the X3], it's super safe and, you know, we feel good in it."

After thorough research and many test drives, the couple chose a black-on-black leather interior for its "simplicity" and "classiness." One of their favourite features of their SUV is its sunroof.

"We both fell in love with the sunroof. It's ginormous," says the Owen Sound native, whose day-to-day work includes interviewing some of the biggest celebs in Hollywood. "You always have lots of sunlight coming in."

Hickey and her husband, both avid golfers, will be hitting Highway 11 in their new SUV this summer to tee off in Muskoka. "We'll stop off at Webers, play the radio game, which I want to say I win, but the truth is, my husband kicks my butt," she says of their road trip traditions.

But what type of driver is Hickey? Definitely not a reckless one. "My husband and really good friends call me driving Miss Daisy," she reveals. "But look at my driving record, I'm a good driver," she implores, adding that although she may be slow behind the wheel, she's not "cause accidents slow."

"I think it's a good thing that I'm a slower driver, since I'm soon going to have a little Hickey-Foley in the back seat."

Hickey's ultimate dream is to one day own a Porsche Boxter convertible in either hunter green or black. But until then, she's happy to turn up her music and pretend she's already driving her Porsche, or as those closest to her might say, driving Miss Daisy.

A 2008 BMW X3

Heather Buchan is a Toronto-based journalist who has worked at several magazines, including Hello! Canada, where she cut her teeth in the world of celebrities.

GM looking at future small car

PLAN General Motors recently announced that it plans to build a future small car in the United States utilizing an idled UAW-GM facility. This vehicle adds to GM's growing portfolio of U.S.-built, highly fuel efficient cars including the Chevrolet Cruze and Volt. "Small cars represent one of the fastest growing segments in both the U.S. and around the world," said Fritz Henderson, GM president and CEO. The re-tooled plant will be capable of building 160,000 cars annually, which can be a combination of both small and compact vehicles.

FROM CARGUIDE

Volvo planning 'dream' plug-in for 2012

GREEN TECH Volvo Cars continues to focus heavily on advanced green technology and is now taking another major step forward in keeping with the company's over-riding vision — DRIVe Towards Zero. A unique joint project together with Swedish energy supplier Vattenfall is prompting the production of battery-powered Volvos featuring plug-in hybrid technology as early as 2012.

"There is no doubt that the environmental issue is at the very top of Volvo Cars' product development agenda right now,: says Stephen Odell, president and CEO of Volvo Cars. "Carbon dioxide emissions from our cars will be drastically reduced by the plan we are now implementing and our aggressive electrification strategy will put us in a leading position when it comes to environmentally optimised passenger transport."

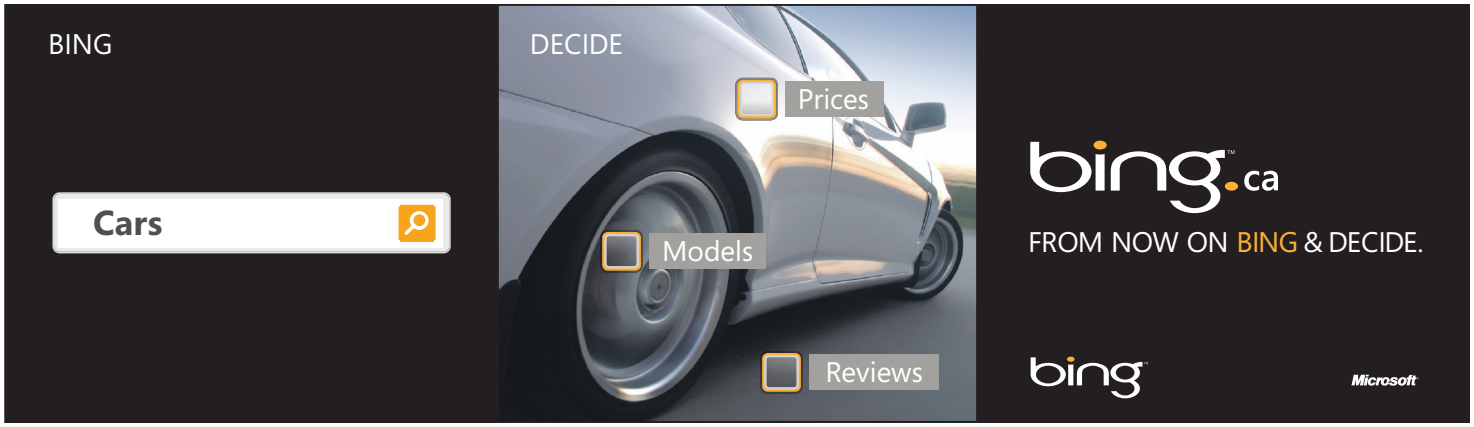
There are many benefits to plug-in electrical hybrids: Carbon dioxide emissions are far lower and with an electric motor offering higher power, the car's performance is also far better. Being able to offer a truly attractive car that does not compromise on the other important properties that the customer wants is an absolute precondition for the market to shift towards more environmentally sustainable alternatives that really do make a difference.

A Volvo V70 Plug-in hybrid demonstration car being charged.

"In fact, I would go so far as to say that the plug-in electrical hybrid we will launch in 2012 will be a true dream car. With the innovative solution we will offer, the car owner will be able to drive a thoroughly enjoyable car packed with Volvo's renowned high safety and genuine driving pleasure", says Stephen Odell.

With this technology, a battery pack that is used to drive an entirely emission-free electric motor. The battery is recharged via a regular wall socket and in addition, braking energy while on the move is stored and reused. This power system will be supplemented by one of Volvo's high-efficiency diesel engines. This diesel engine is designed to run on renewable synthetic diesel and will meet forthcoming extremely stringent exhaust regulations.

FROM CARGUIDE



TOYOTA

0

Money well not-spent.

0 down payment◆
0 first month's payment†
0 security deposit
0 worries

09 Yaris

ecoENERGY
an ecoACTION initiative

Most fuel-efficient vehicle in its class, four years in a row††

Toyota Real Value Event

Now, legendary Toyota quality comes with even more peace of mind. Get complimentary Job Loss Credit Protection with your Yaris lease.✧

zero worries

REAL PEOPLE. GREAT CARS. REAL VALUE.

Don't see your Toyota here? Take a tour through our virtual showroom at realtoyota.ca No security deposit on 2009 leases.

Reader's Digest TRUSTED BRAND 2009 VOTED BY CANADIANS

ONTARIO TOYOTA DEALERS Real people. Great cars.

TOYOTA make things better

Limited time lease offers available from Toyota Financial Services O.A.C. †"0 first month's payment" lease offer available on a new 2009 Yaris and Yaris Hatchback, when leased from a participating Ontario Toyota Dealer from June 10, 2009 through June 30, 2009 and registered and delivered by July 31, 2009. Lease customers will have their first month's payment paid up to a maximum of $300, including taxes. ◆"0 down payment" subject to credit approval by Toyota Financial Services. ††Based on Fuel Consumption Guide ratings published by Natural Resources Canada. Refer to the Government of Canada publication EnerGuide Fuel Consumption Guide. To find out more, visit ecoaction.gc.ca/vehicles. ✧Complimentary Job Loss Credit Protection is offered by Toyota Credit Canada Inc. ("Toyota Credit" or "TFS") and available to eligible retail customers who purchase or lease one of the following vehicles through TFS between June 2 and June 30, 2009: new and demonstrator Yaris models. The program provides up to $10,000 in credit protection to consumers who suffer an unexpected job loss during the term of their lease or financing contract, provide proof that they are collecting unemployment benefits and return their vehicle to their Toyota dealer. Excludes charges for excess wear and tear, excess kilometres, unrepaired damages and similar charges. Program only applies to natural persons, over the age of 18, who suffer Involuntary Unemployment (as defined in the contract) and who meet the other eligibility criteria. Program does not apply to corporations, companies, associations, self-employed people, seasonal employees, employees of TFS or employees under a fixed term contract. Eligible consumers will be required to make regular monthly payments while their claim is evaluated. Further conditions and limitations apply. For complete details, ask your Toyota dealer. Canada's most trusted brand of cars and SUVs, based upon a Reader's Digest Harris Decima January 2009 consumer survey of 1500 Canadians. All rights are reserved. Offers valid between June 10, 2009 and June 30, 2009 and are subject to change without notice. Please see your participating Toyota Dealer for full details.

Toyota grad program

Nano headed to U.S.

Indian automaker Tata Motors has confirmed plans for a version of the ultra-cheap Tata Nano to be sold in the United States. The Nano, with a base price of under $2,000 in India, is currently the cheapest new car in the world. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Brabus in bloom

smart introduces its performance version

JIM ROBINSON
for Metro Canada

2009 smart fortwo Brabus

Type: Two-seat coupe/convertible
Price: $24,900; as tested, $25,698.
Engine: 1.0-litre (999 cc), inline, three-cylinder (70 hp, 68 lb/ft)

Highlights

- Enhanced performance
- Cutting-edge interior

Smart is celebrating its tenth anniversary with a special performance Brabus in coupe and cabriolet; (Right) The smart's interior remains very avant-garde but has been toned down slightly.

When Mercedes-Benz Canada started importing the smart car in 2004, I thought it would never last.

I laughed when it was announced plans were to sell 1,000 in the first year. The smirk was erased when almost 4,000 were bought. As of May 1 of this year it was 14,683 smarts on Canadian roads and counting.

The smart (always with a lower case "s") began as an idea by Swatch watch founder Nicolas Hayek as a car for the same kind of fashion conscious but budget-minded people who bought his watches.

The concept was good, but the execution was troubled. That caused Swatch's partner, Mercedes-Benz, to step in and take over the project.

Now available in the U.S. as well as Canada, one of the reasons it's selling so well is consumers have begun rethinking what they really need. When you consider an inner city vehicle only travels an average of 29 km per day and sits idle 95 per cent of the time, having a great, hulking SUV downtown doesn't make a lot of sense.

The second generation smart was introduced in 2008 and while it looks similar, much has changed. It's still called the fortwo (for two passengers), is still less than three metres long and it still has that cheeky, playful look about it that always makes people smile.

However, the changes start with the engine. The turbo diesel of the first generation was dropped in favour of gasoline. The power plant remains a diminutive three-cylinder but now it's 1.0-litres (999 cc actually versus 799 cc with the diesel) producing 70 hp and 68 lb/ft of torque. That's 30 more hp than the 40 hp of the previous engine. But the diesel had slightly more torque at 74 lb/ft.

That's enough to see the new smart go from 0-100 km/h in 13.3 seconds with a top speed limited to 145 km/h. Fuel consumption is listed at 5.9/4.8/5.4L/ 100 km city/highway/combined.

While the smart is still offered as the base "pure" coupe ($14,990), the "passion" coupe ($18,250) and "passion" cabriolet ($21,250), smart is now celebrating its tenth anniversary with the introduction of the Brabus in either coupe or cabriolet.

Brabus is a Germany company long associated with aftermarket parts and now operates in a joint venture with Mercedes-Benz for smart.

It builds on the passion and adds enhanced performance through freer exhaust tuning plus chassis and suspension components. Compared to the size of the car, the "Monoblock VII" Brabus wheels look huge.

Everything is done in leather, brushed aluminum and stainless steel coupled with Brabus-only black-on-black or silver-on-silver paint. The body features Brabus side skirts, front spoiler with optional foglights and rear valance finished off with a pair of 76 mm, chrome tailpipes.

With 68 lb/ft of torque in a car with a curb weight of 820 kg, it gets up to speed faster than you might expect because of the power–to-weight ratio.

The smart is more a state of mind and a statement all at once. In fact smart describes potential buyers as "thought leaders", the kind of people who buy iPods and iPhones. And with the Brabus you can look smart and be smart too.

BMW reveals 5 series Gran Turismo

BMW has unveiled the 5 Series Gran Turismo, a car which combines an understated coupe-like silhouette to the luxurious interior of a BMW 7 Series, while at the same time giving the functionality of a BMW 5 Series Touring or X5.

The 19th distinct model shape to be offered in the BMW portfolio has a vehicle length nearly on par with a BMW 7 Series to create a greater feeling of space for those inside.

This translates into the second greatest amount of legroom offered by any BMW while headroom is equivalent to that of a BMW X5. Meanwhile, boot space can be enhanced from 440 litres up to 1,700 litres, only 50 litres behind the capacity of the BMW X5 and the second largest space compared to all current BMWs.

The BMW 5 Series Gran Turismo is available as either a four-seat Executive specification car for a luxurious, spacious feel or in a five-seat SE configuration for a blend of sophistication and practicality.

The BMW 5 Series Gran Turismo features new packaging features for a premium car plus the range is powered by an all turbo-charged engine line-up with new eight-speed automatic transmission.

But its truly innovative feature is a two-piece tailgate which is a first in the premium segment. Now an owner has the option to choose between two ways of opening the rear of the vehicle depending on the objects needed to be stowed.

The hatch-style opening combined with a flexible partition comes into play should the BMW 5 Series Gran Turismo owner wish to make full use of its load-lugging capacity. The rear seats can be moved 100mm fore or aft to either increase boot space or provide greater legroom for rear seat passengers.

With the rear seats moved forwards, the seat backs folded virtually flat and the parcel shelf removed and stowed beneath the luggage compartment floor, much bulkier items can then be transported.

Black Panel technology first shown on the BMW 7 Series adds more luxury. The electronic displays are visible through the Black Panel technology when needed, but are discreet enough to form a stylish black band across the interior. FROM CARGUIDE

All your BBQ needs, with a little help from Porsche

APPLIANCE Barbeques Galore, a division of Grand Home Holding, Inc. and a leading U.S. developer and retailer of high-end outdoor living products has collaborated with Porsche Design Studio to develop the world's most desirable, luxurious and highly functional grills: the X-Series.

Four years in the making, the X-Series features a totally unique and stunning design along with built-in rotisserie, counter balanced hood and electronic instruments and gauges.

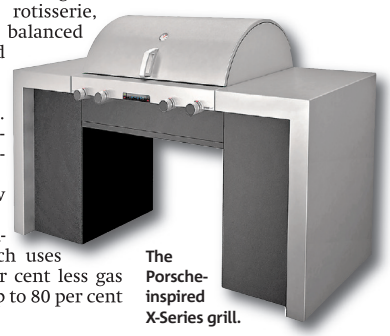
The X-Series also incorporates the all-new Crossray burner technology which uses up to 50 per cent less gas and emits up to 80 per cent less smoke.

Front and back infrared ceramic burners create a totally even cooking surface and virtually eliminate flare-ups experienced in traditional gas grills.

X-Series grills are available as a standalone cart or in an island.

For more information on X-Series visit bbqgalore.com and search Crossray Grills.

FROM CARGUIDE



The Porsche-inspired X-Series grill.

HEY TORONTO, TAKE THE NEW 2010 FUSION OR 09 FOCUS FOR A TEST-DRIVE BEFORE JUNE 30TH...

AND YOU COULD WIN IT!§

Smart On Fuel

61MPG – 4.6L/100KM CITY
52MPG – 5.4L/100KM HWY
New Fusion Hybrid***

32MPG – 8.9L/100KM CITY
49MPG – 5.8L/100KM HWY
Fusion S • I-4 • Automatic***

SEL Model Shown

INTRODUCING THE NEW 2010 FUSION + HYBRID

THE MOST FUEL-EFFICIENT MIDSIZE SEDAN IN CANADA.†

Based on Hybrid and S models.

THE NEW 2010 FUSION GETS

0% APR PURCHASE* FINANCING UP TO **36 MONTHS**

+

$0 FIRST MONTH PAYMENTS‡

QUALITY‡‡
FORD QUALITY IS INDEPENDENTLY RATED EQUAL TO TOYOTA AND HONDA

SAFETY**
MORE TOP SAFETY RATINGS THAN ANY OTHER AUTOMAKER.

HURRY, ONLY 12 DAYS LEFT TO ENTER FOR A CHANCE TO WIN YOUR CAR!

Smart On Fuel

50MPG – 5.7L/100KM HWY
33MPG – 8.5L/100KM CITY
Focus SE Manual***

SEL Model shown. MSRP $19,399

Purchase a 2009 FOCUS SE for

$153* @ **0%** APR **$0** FIRST MONTH PAYMENTS‡ + **0%** APR PURCHASE* FINANCING UP TO **60 MONTHS**

Twice a month. Financed over 60 months with **$0 Down.**
Offer includes freight and air tax.

AND RIGHT NOW, THERE ARE ZERO REASONS FOR YOU TO WAIT FOR YOUR FORD.

Ford FIVE-O EVENT

$0‡	$0*	$0*	$0▲	0%• APR
FIRST MONTH PAYMENTS	DOWN PAYMENT	DUE AT DELIVERY	SECURITY DEPOSIT	PURCHASE FINANCING

Offers vary by model. Not all combinations apply. See dealer for details.

TEST-DRIVE A FUSION OR FOCUS TODAY FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN.
ONLY AT THESE TORONTO FORD STORES FOR UNTIL JUNE 30TH.

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COLONY FORD LINCOLN SALES INC.
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416 231-3361

SUMMIT FORD SALES (1982) LTD.
416 741-6221

THORNCREST SHERWAY FORD
416 521-7000

MARKHAM
MARKVILLE FORD LINCOLN LTD.
905 474-1350

MISSISSAUGA
DIXIE FORD SALES LTD.
905 629-1300

ERINWOOD FORD SALES LTD.
905 828-1600

MEADOWVALE FORD SALES AND SERVICE LTD.
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905 278-5535

MISSISSAUGA
WHITEOAK FORD LINCOLN SALES LTD.
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OAKVILLE
KENNEDY FORD SALES LTD.
905 845-1646

OAK-LAND FORD LINCOLN SALES LTD.
905 844-3273

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MARIGOLD FORD LINCOLN SALES LTD.
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416 798-4777

Ford **Drive one.**

Test Drive Contest Rules: To enter, visit your participating local Toronto Area Ford Dealer and request to test drive a 2010 Ford Fusion or 2009 Ford Focus between May 1, 2009 and June 30, 2009. After your test drive, enter the contest by obtaining a ballot from a representative at the Toronto Area Ford dealership and completing all mandatory information. Submit the ballot at the ballot box located at the dealership. Open only to residents of Ontario who have reached the age of majority, hold a valid driver's license and have satisfactory proof of insurance at the time of entry. One entry per person during the Contest Period. One (1) prize will be awarded in Ontario, consisting of either a 2009 Ford Focus SE sedan with automatic transmission or a 2010 Ford Fusion SE-V4 with automatic transmission (or a comparable model if either vehicle is unavailable), with an approximate retail value of $19,399. Taxes, licence, registration, PPSA, insurance, dealership administration fees, pre-delivery charges and all applicable taxes. Random draw will be conducted at 10:00 a.m. ET on July 8, 2009. Chances of winning are solely dependent on the total number of eligible entries received. To win a skill testing question must be answered correctly. See your local Toronto Area Ford Dealer for full contest details.

‡‡ Ford quality is based on cumulative survey data of 2008 Model Year Ford and competitive owners at three months of service in three surveys conducted 5/07-5/08. † Fuel efficiency: Figures based on the Ford Motor Company Canada 2009 ratings. Actual fuel consumption may vary based on road conditions, vehicle loading, and vehicle equipment and driving habits. ††† 'All fuel consumption ratings based on Transport Canada approved test methods. Actual fuel consumption may vary based on road conditions, vehicle loading, and driving habits. ** Safety ratings based on Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS), Top Safety Picks historical data from 2006 to 2009 and on the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA) historical five-star crash test ratings. Government star ratings are part of the NHTSA's 'New Car Assessment Program (www.safercar.gov). ‡ Based on estimated fuel consumption ratings: Fusion Hybrid 4.6L/100km city and 5.4L/100km hwy or Fusion S, I-4 automatic 8.9L/100km city and 5.8L/100km hwy (excluding hybrid). Midsize class per R.L. Polk & Co. (U.S.)/Intermediate per R. L. Polk Canada, Inc. Limited quantities of Fusion S available in Canada. The Ford Five-O Event ("Five-O") is in effect from May 1, 2009 to June 30, 2009 at participating Ford of Canada Dealerships. During the Five-O Event one or more combinations of $0 first month's payment, 0% APR purchase financing for up to 60 months, $0 down payment, $0 due at signing, and $0 security deposit will apply to the purchase finance or lease of select new 2009 and 2010 Ford vehicles. Offers vary by model and not all combinations will apply. Offers are available to retail customers only. Offers include freight and air tax, but exclude license, insurance, PPSA, registration, administration fees and all applicable taxes. These offers are subject to vehicle availability and may be cancelled at any time without notice. Dealer may sell or lease for less. Limited time offers. Some conditions apply. ‡ $0 first month's payment required on the purchase finance or lease of all new 2009 and 2010 Ford vehicles delivered on or before June 30, 2009. Offer valid from May 1, 2009 to June 30, 2009. First monthly payment will be paid up to a maximum amount of $500/$750/$1,000 per eligible 2009 and 2010 Focus, Fusion, Mustang, Taurus, Escape, Ranger / Edge, Flex, Taurus X, Explorer 4Dr, Explorer Sport Trac, E-Series / Expedition, F-150, F-Super Duty. Offer only available to customers who finance or lease through Ford Credit. Offer not available to cash purchase customers. Offer is only available on approved credit (OAC) from Ford Credit. A, X, Z plan customers are eligible for $0 first month payment, see dealer for details. Not combinable with Commercial Fleet incentive program, CPA, GFC or Daily Rental Allowance. Raincheks only available on the purchase of eligible vehicles. * From May 1, 2009 to June 30, 2009, pay $0 first month's purchase finance payment at your participating Ford dealer and for the remaining 59 months of the total 60 month purchase finance contract, receive 0% APR purchase financing on most new 2009 Ford Focus 4dr SE purchase financing monthly payment is $586 (Monthly payment divided by two gives you a twice monthly payment of $293 with a down payment of $0. Cost of borrowing is $0 and total to be repaid is $17,579. All offers include freight and air tax of $1,400 but exclude license, insurance, registration, PPSA, administration fees and all applicable taxes, a maximum of 60 months to qualified retail customers, on approved credit (OAC) from Ford Credit. Not all buyers will qualify for the lowest APR payment. Twice a month payments are only available through Internet banking and telephone banking, if offered by your financial institution. ▲ Pay $0 first month's purchase finance payment at your participating Ford dealer and for the remaining 59 months of the total 60 month purchase finance contract, receive 0% APR purchase financing on most new 2009 Ford Focus 4dr SE purchase financing monthly payment is $586 (Monthly payment divided by two gives you a twice monthly payment of $293 with a down payment of $0. Cost of borrowing is $0 and total to be repaid is $17,579. All offers include freight and air tax of $1,400 but exclude license, insurance, registration, PPSA, administration fees and all applicable taxes, a maximum of 60 months to qualified retail customers, on approved credit (OAC) from Ford Credit. Not all buyers will qualify for the lowest APR payment. ▪ Pay $0 first month's purchase finance payment at your participating Ford dealer and for the remaining 59 months of the total 60 month purchase finance contract, receive 0% APR for 60 months, monthly payment is $555.55, cost of borrowing is $0 or APR of 0% and total to be repaid is $33,000. Down payment or trade equivalent may be required based on approved credit. ■ Pay $0 first month's purchase finance payment at your participating Ford dealer and for the remaining 59 months of the total 60 month purchase finance contract, receive 0% APR for 60 months, monthly payment is $555.55, cost of borrowing is $0 or APR of 0% and total to be repaid is $33,000. Down payment or trade equivalent may be required based on approved credit. ◆ $0 security deposit on the lease of most new 2009 and 2010 Ford vehicles (excluding 2009 Ford Shelby GT 500 & 500KR, E-Series Cutaway, F-350 Chassis Cabs, F-450 & F-550 Chassis Cabs Gas & Diesel Engines, F-650 & F-750 Chassis Cabs Gas & Diesel Engines, Transit Connect, E-Series Cutaway, F-350 Chassis Cabs Gas & Diesel Engines, F-450 & F-550 Chassis Cabs Gas & Diesel Engines) effective April 1, 2009 through June 30, 2009. Security Deposit may be required by Ford Credit based on customer credit terms and conditions.

Honouring motorsports

A new Canadian Motorsports Heritage Foundation is now in the planning, with the goal of honouring the legends and history of racing in Canada. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Gifts for the gearhead dad

GLEN KONOROWSKI
for Metro Canada

If your dad is one of those guys who loves to wax poetic about things on wheels, then these (rather inexpensive, keeping the tough times in mind) items would make perfect gifts this Father's Day:

THE GPS SNITCH

Now, with the aid of your computer and the GPS Snitch you can now track the movements of a car or person anywhere in North America. The Snitch is available at Future Shop and The Source for $299 plus a cellphone connection at a set rate per month or by the year.

MECHANIX GLOVES

Keeping your hands clean around vehicles is tough, but with Mechanix Gloves it's easy. Theses gloves are thin enough to you feel grip the parts and when dirty, just throw in the wash to clean. Find them at auto parts stores starting around $20.

PORTABLE AIR COMPRESSORS

Good fuel economy and a good ride are dependent on the right air pressure in your tires. Portable Air Compressors allows you to do all this plus blow up inflatable items as well. The simplest compressors start around $50 and go up depending on your needs and budget the larger units are generally the best way to go. Auto parts stores are the best place to go.

FLUORESCENT TROUBLE LIGHT

Seeing what you doing under the hood of your car or truck is vital and having an LED or Fluorescent Trouble Light is really practical. This lights don't heat up like bulbs, use less electricity and best of all, they emit more light. They come in cordless, 12-volt and wall plug-in varieties from $50 and up. All good auto parts stores have them.

TWO-WAY RADIOS

When travelling in two or more cars keeping in touch is can be a real charade of arms out the window. Two-way radios make talking to the other car or cars easy. With a range of 40 kilometers on some models no one should be lost. Prices start at $70 and are available at electronics and big box stores.

POWER INVERTERS

Power Inverters are a great way of running items from you home in the car. Things like computers, chargers and electronics can easily run on the 12-volt to 120-volt power put out by these. Size matters; so get one big enough for the accessory you want to power. Canadian Tire has a great selection starting at $30.

HEATED SEAT CUSHION

A heated or vibrating seat cushion in your car or truck can make a world of difference when traveling any distance in a badly designed seat. These back saving items come in all shapes, sizes and functions. Starting at about $30 Canadian Tire has lots to choose from.

Through a glass darkly on the road

JUSTIN PRITCHARD
for Metro Canada

If you've got a long trip to make, you'll find wearing driving glasses while the sun is out will leave your eyes fresher and more energetic after it goes down.

Ever purchased a $5.99 set of sunglasses from the local hardware store to help combat squinting at the wheel? If so, your retinas would like to have a word with you. The sun, especially now that spring is in and we are fast approaching summer, can damage your eyes, so a set of specs offering maximum protection are in order to keep them in tip-top shape.

Sunglasses that offer 100 per cent UV A and UV B blocking are best for protecting against macular degeneration and other nasty forms of eye damage. For motorists, a high-performance set of driving glasses have the added benefit of enhancing safety and confidence while driving.

Optometrist Dr. Dave Chisholm explains why the "cheapies" aren't a good idea. "One difference is the percentage of UV A and UV B protection provided by the lens and how the lens was manufactured" he says. "The cheap glasses often have distortion and aberrations that can cause blurry vision and strain your eyes. High quality lenses are manufactured according to stricter tolerances."

Reducing glare is important for drivers, as it can cause discomfort and eye strain. To reduce glare, you'll need a polarized lens which blocks much of the light reflected from surfaces like snow and water. This can take a serious load off your peepers while driving. Put simply, polarized driving glasses improve one's ability to see comfortably.

Taking a long road trip? Remember that after a day of straining, your eyes will likely wind up dangerously fatigued for nighttime driving. If you've got a long trip to make, you'll find wearing driving glasses while the sun is out will leave your eyes fresher and more energetic after it goes down.

Going one step further than simple polarization, some manufacturers even offer a lens specifically for driving. These glasses offer enhanced color contrast and increased detail visible farther away. It all works towards a sense of high-definition vision.

Chisholm explains: "Most driving sunglasses are brown rather than grey. The brown tint works best for improving contrast because it eliminates blue tones that cause eye fatigue. Often it's not the brightness that causes eye fatigue — but poor contrast that forces our eyes to strain to see details."

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Autobahn for All
Sales Event

0% APR on all models**
+ No first payment†
Only 2 Weeks Left!

*Base MSRP of $24,275/$15,300/$27,575 for new 2009 Jetta TDI Clean Diesel / Golf City / Tiguan with manual transmission. MSRP of new Jetta TDI Clean Diesel / Golf City / Tiguan as shown is $32,098/$18,671/$33,975. Models shown for illustrative purposes only. Some features shown are optional. Freight and PDI of $1,380 for Jetta TDI Clean Diesel and Golf City and $1,575 for Tiguan excluded. License, insurance, registration, any dealer or other charges, options, and applicable taxes are extra. Dealer may sell for less. **Limited time finance offer available through Volkswagen Finance on approved credit. 0% APR financing available for up to 36 months. Financing example: MSRP of a new 2009 Jetta TDI Clean Diesel base model with manual transmission is $24,275; financed at 0% APR up to 36 months equals $674.31 per month. Dealer may sell for less. Down payment or equivalent trade-in, due at signing, may be required. Cost of borrowing is $0 for a total obligation of $24,275. PPSA, license, insurance, registration, any dealer or other charges, options and applicable taxes are extra. At Agincourt Autohaus Inc. Offer ends June 30 2009 and is subject to change or cancellation without notice. Dealer order/trade may be necessary. Supplies limited. See Agincourt VW Brand Enthusiast or visit VWdirect.ca for details. †First monthly payment free up to a maximum of $250 for 2009 Golf City / Jetta City and Rabbit, $400 for 2009 GTI, Jetta 2.5 / Jetta Wagon / Jetta TDI Clean Diesel / Jetta 2.0T models; New Beetle / New Beetle Convertible and Tiguan, and $500 for 2009 Eos, Passat / Passat Wagon / Passat CC, Routan and Touareg (Taxes included - no cash value). ††For more information see GreenCarJournal .com. ‡Up to $750 rebate for recent col lege or universi ty graduates. "Volkswagen", "Jet ta" , "Tiguan" , "Gol f Cl ty" and the Volkswagen logo are registered trademarks of Volkswagen AG. "Autobahn for All" is a trademark of Volkswagen Group Canada Inc. "Green Car of the Year" is a registered trademark of R.J. Cegan Specialty Publications Group, Inc. © 2009 Volkswagen Canada.

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NEW LOW PRICE. SAME HIGH VALUE.

2009 ASTRA® 3-Door XR model shown

2009 ASTRA XE

CASH PURCHASE PRICE, STARTING AT **$13,890***

INCLUDES LOYALTY CASH BONUS£

HWY - 6.1 L/100 KM (46 MPG)° CITY - 8.5 L/100 KM (33 MPG)°

- Available in 3-door and 5-door models
- German design; built in Belgium

Now any Saturn owner can save up to **$2,000**£

Offer ends June 30, 2009

Best coverage in Canada with a **FULLY BACKED WARRANTY**¶

5 years/160,000 km

2009 VUE® Red Line model shown

2009 VUE XE

CASH PURCHASE PRICE, STARTING AT **$19,925***

INCLUDES LOYALTY CASH BONUS£

HWY - 7.5 L/100 KM (38 MPG)° CITY - 10.9 L/100 KM (26 MPG)°

- 2009 TOP SAFETY PICK AWARD winner from the **Insurance Institute for Highway Safety**¥

Also available as a HYBRID

2009 AURA® XR model shown

2009 AURA XE

CASH PURCHASE PRICE, STARTING AT **$18,175***

INCLUDES LOYALTY CASH BONUS£

HWY - 5.9 L/100 KM (48 MPG)° CITY - 9.4 L/100 KM (30 MPG)°

- Better fuel efficiency than the Accord or Camry (excludes hybrids)

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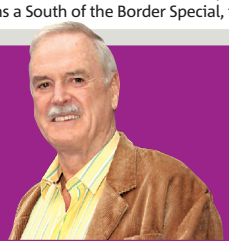
A Fair (mont) deal in Boston

Through Sept. 7, Boston's The Fairmont Copley Plaza, in the historic Back Bay, and Fairmont Battery Wharf, on the waterfront, will offer Canadians a South of the Border Special, through which rates will be at par starting at $199; see fairmont.com. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Travel



Onboard entertainment

Luxury operator Silversea Cruises will launch a new ship, Silver Spirit, early next year, and to celebrate, the company is lining up celebrity guest speakers and other special events during the 20-country, 45-port inaugural voyage. On the leg beginning Feb. 20, 2010, from Buenos Aires to Santiago, beloved funnyman John Cleese will "share insights and anecdotes from his long career and entertain guests." See silversea.com. METRO NEWS SERVICES

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Far from the madding crowd

These Greek islands can offer seclusion

ZOE KOSKINIDOU
Metro World News

Looking to escape the summer crowds in Greece's most popular island destinations? Zoe Koskinidou, gives us her insider tips on where the celebrities go when they want to find a secret paradise.

MARGARET RENDLE

The entrance to the port of Kastellorizo, which is among the smallest of the Greek islands.

Patmos

Why go: The island is dubbed the Jerusalem of the Aegean, because John the Evangelist wrote the Book of Revelations there in 95 AD. But visitors don't need to be religious to enjoy the island: Patmos, combines a laidback pace of life with lively nightlife.

What to see and do: The most important attraction here is the fortress-like monastery of St. John, built in 1088 by monk Christodoulos. Halfway between Chora and Scala, the island's port, there is the Grotto of the Apocalypse, where the manuscript was written.

Where to stay: Casteli Hotel, casteli.gr, by the beach of the port has rooms for 45-75 euros a night for a double room and Byzance Hotel, byzancehotel.gr, in Skala with room rates from 30 to 100 euros per room per night.

What to buy: Porcelain, crystal and silver items. Patmos is also famous for its elegant embroidery.

Where to eat: George's place at Cambos offers great Greek cuisine and is a great place for celebrity spotting. Try Kima at Aspri for fish dishes and a unique view.

Where to drink: for early drinks try Astivi in the town of Chora. After midnight, Casbah at the port town of Scala is a total must for visitors who really want to have fun, drink and dance all night long.

Celebrities on the island: David Bowie has a house in the island, and it's the favourite holiday spot of fashion designer Valentino.

Kastellorizo

Why go: This is one of the smallest Greek islands, located near the island of Rhodes and close to Turkey. Getting there involves a bit of a long journey, but the beauty of the place is ample reward.

Read more on page 37 ››

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Vacation planning
The results of a new TNS Canadian Facts survey called show more than half of Canadians are planning an out-of-town vacation in the coming 12 months, with an average of three such trips on the agenda. METRO NEWS SERVICES

MICHAEL TUREK/THE IMAGE BANK

SLOW IMAGES

Left, a view of cliffs and the sea on Paxos in the Ionian islands. Right, a terrace on Patmos, another of the Greek islands recommended by our correspondent.

›› Continued from page 36

What to see and do: The famous aqua-colored cave of Kastellorizo is a geological phenomena and one of the most amazing formations on earth — the island is worth visiting for this cave alone. It's situated south of the island and the entrance is the height of a small boat that can just pass through the mouth when the sea is calm at dawn.
Where to stay: Try the quiet rooms of Damien's and Monika's Pension (Tel. 0030 22460 49028).
What to buy: When in Kastellorizo you must buy katoumaria, a local sweet and strava, a sort of fried baklava filled with walnuts and spices.
Where to eat: There are several small taverns on the island. Wherever you go try seafood dishes and chickpea balls.
Where to drink: Although Kastellorizo is a very small island, you can find several bars to enjoy an early drink. Keep in mind that it is a quiet island, best suited for people who want to spend their vacations on the beach and have a great Greek dinner after a swim.
Celebrities on the island: Princess Caroline of Hanover (and Monaco) picked the remote island to spend her holidays with her family.

Paxos
Why to go: Forget Corfu and Kefalonia — Paxos is the place to be if you want to visit the Ionian islands. Paxos, the baby of that group, is actually a cluster of small islands and rocky islets, the largest of which are Paxos and Antipaxos. The capital of Paxos is Gaios, a picturesque village build around a port which is protected by two small islands, Agios Nikolaos and Panagitsa.
What to see and do: Visit Antipaxos and go to see the traditional vineyards. Another essential place to visit are the magical caves of Mogonissi.
What to buy: One of the main products of Paxos is olive oil. You can also buy excellent wine from Antipaxos' vineyards.
Where to stay: Villa Kastanida, is a beautifully restored farmhouse with private pool set amongst the olive groves. Or you can stay at Villa Lioniskari, a charming traditional villa situated on a headland at the entrance to Mogonissi Bay, just a short drive south of Gaios town.
Where to eat: Restaurant Mambo is perhaps the best restaurant in Gaios and a favourite with locals, who pack the outdoors terrace. Try tasting the chicken dishes, grilled squid and meatballs.
Where to drink: Paxos is an island best suited for the romantic souls of this world — you won't find it full of wild clubs and bars.
Celebrities on the island: Actors Albert Finney and Susannah York and the Italian Agnelli family, who run Fiat, are among those who have chosen Paxos for their vacations.

One-stop shopping

A one-stop website for planning a trip to Asia has relaunched with new features and deals. The Discover Asia Now site, discoverasianow.com, is a joint marketing effort by a variety of national tourism boards. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mexico aims to repair its name

Tourism officials fighting to attract vacationers' dollars

The last time Bud Olson visited Mexico, he ended up in a hospital with kidney stones and missed the ancient Mayan ruins in the seaside town of Tulum.

So, when he heard that swine flu was sweeping through Mexico just weeks before he was to return this year, the 43-year-old Seattle resident and his friends threw all caution to the warm Caribbean breezes and went anyway.

Olson is one of the intrepid few who decided to come to Mexico in the throes of the epidemic.

His reward? No lines, great service, empty beaches — and lower prices.

"There was no one at our resort," said Olson's friend, Penny Moeller, 44. "The service was spectacular. But it's a shame for the economy."

Moeller says she ended up paying $142 US a week for a rental car she originally booked for $350.

Yes, it might just be the perfect time to head south. Sure, swine flu is still alive — in fact, it's now a global pandemic — but chances of contracting it in Mexico, where the outbreak was first detected, are probably at their lowest.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says that the epidemic peaked in Mexico in late April and now has spread throughout the Northern Hemisphere. The CDC says it will continue to be a threat south of the equator, where countries are entering the winter months and traditional flu season.

Mexican Health Secretary Jose Angel Cordova says the number of swine flu cases fell from an average of 300 a day during the epidemic's peak to less than 30 now. "We don't really have any more serious cases," Cordova told The Associated Press.

ISRAEL LEAL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Left, tourists enjoy the beach at the resort city of Cancun in Mexico — a nation whose tourism industry has suffered considerably. Above, an aerial view of Cancun.

> **"There was no one at our resort. The service was spectacular. But it's a shame for the economy."**
> Penny Moeller, 44, tourist in Mexico

The Mexican government has pumped $91 million US into getting that message out.

When swine flu broke out, Mexico was already suffering from the economic crisis and fighting image damage over drug violence. Spring breakers still flocked to Mexican beaches far from the drug-plagued U.S. border, but thousands of tourists and businesspeople from around the world cancelled trips when swine flu emerged.

President Felipe Calderon has recruited everyone from Mexican opera tenor Placido Domingo to Hollywood stars as part of the government's "Vive Mexico" campaign to jump-start tourism, the nation's third-largest source of legal foreign income.

Calderon recently met in Mexico City with actor Hugh Jackman, who "pointed out that our country is a healthy place for tourists," the president's office said in a news release. Ben Stiller also has visited since the epidemic, despite being criticized for allegedly using anti-bacterial gel after shaking hands with Mexican reporters in Washington last month.

Stiller declared it all a misunderstanding and joked he liked Mexico so much he might even ask Calderon for a job.

So what will you get if you do decide to come?

Not swine flu, according to several resorts that are backing that claim with a "flu-free guarantee."

The Real Resorts Mexican hotel chain is among those offering one free vacation a year for three consecutive years — if guests come down with swine flu within 14 days of their departure and can produce the blood tests to prove it.

The chain also says it is discounting rooms up to 40 per cent and offering 50 per cent reductions on spa treatments, romantic beach dinners and liquor, as well as a "children stay free" deal.

"We have to show that we are free of this virus," said Real Resorts owner Fernando Garcia Zalvidea. "We have to take risks so that tourism returns to our beaches."

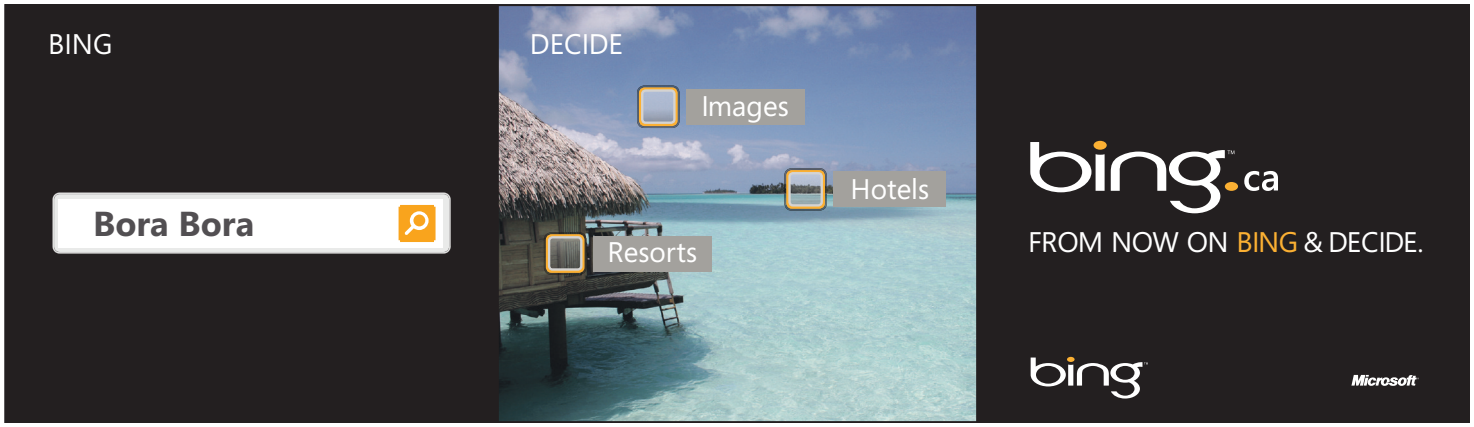
Nearly 300 Mexican hotels are participating in the "Biggest Hotel Sale Ever" campaign being offered by online travel agency Expedia Inc., according to company official Marco Tagliatti, who said that the average price for vacation packages to Cancun in which a flight and hotel are booked together has dropped 26 per cent compared to last summer.

With the weakened peso trading at 13 to the U.S. dollar, the destinations are also a deal for recession-weary Americans. And if that's not enough to persuade travellers to risk it, the Mexico City government is promising them free health insurance.

All of that fanfare was unnecessary for Olson, whose common sense told him he was more likely to catch a sunburn than the flu. "I'm still convinced that it was an ordinary flu that the government and some press blew out of proportion," he said.

Eva Litwinowich, 25, of Vancouver Island, arrived in Isla Mujeres, an island near Cancun, just before the epidemic broke out in April — and decided to remain even after her friend left early.

"I'm so glad I stayed because it's not what it was built up to be," she said as she trekked through the Mayan pyramids of Chichen Itza on the Yucatan Peninsula. "We met tons of people who also have come. I realized that not everyone was panicking." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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Jesus' story from the Badlands

The 16th season of The Canadian Badlands Passion Play (canadianpassionplay.com) will feature over 200 actors in its retelling of the life and death of Jesus Christ. The three-hour play will be staged twice daily on July 10, 11 and 17 on the western outskirts of Drumheller, a 1 1/2-hour drive from Calgary. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Taking a breather in Victoria, B.C.

ANNE DIMON
Metro World News

Like a whole-wheat pita stuffed with locally grown veggies, my recent visit to Victoria was packed with activities any wellness-minded traveller would love.

It was Vancouver, Toronto and Calgary that made the Economist Intelligence Unit's global list of top ten most livable cities, but when it comes to Canadian cities that most cater to the healthy-minded, my vote goes to Victoria.

According to Statistics Canada (2206), it's the "fittest city" in the country and the "cycling capital" of the country. Add to that, the compact seaside city is scenic, networked with cycling and running trails, offers a handful of good spas, a greater number of healthy-focused restaurants, numerous food festivals showcasing local produce, a temperate climate — the list goes on.

At the Magnolia Hotel & Spa in downtown Victoria, a boutique property located just two blocks from the postcard-pretty Inner Harbour, the day begins with a 15-minute Pranayama breathing class led by Mahima Tripathi.

According to Statistics Canada, Victoria, B.C., is the "fittest city" in the country. Add to that, the compact seaside city offers a handful of good spas and eateries boasting healthy, local food.

Born and educated in India, Tripathi is a Reiki teacher and the hotel's director of sales. In one of the Magnolia's beautifully appointed guest room we sit on the floor, eyes closed as Tripathi gently guides us through a breathing ritual. "It's an exercise to centre the energies and help balance the chakras," she says.

It takes mere minutes to focus, ground, energize and generally launch the day filled with positive energy.

The breathing ritual turns out to be the perfect appetizer for the Chakra Balancing treatment at The Spa Magnolia. Earlier this year, the intimate Aveda Concept spa was expanded, upgraded and relocated to the space adjacent to the hotel lobby.

It now houses eight treatment rooms, a locker room, a pretty little lounge and a good sized retail area. "Pick a card," the therapist requests. "That will help us determine what chakra is out of balance today," she says.

The choice of card determines the aroma that will be blended into the massage oils and the chakra-specific words that will be recited by the therapist at certain points during the treatment.

Read more on page 41 »

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Vistas of the New World

In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, the Canadian Pacific Railway commissioned artists to paint, photograph and film the "new West." Original works by those Canadian artists have been assembled for Vistas: Artists on the Canadian Pacific Railway, which opens June 20 at the Glenbow Museum (glenbow.org) in Calgary. THE CANADIAN PRESS

At a waterfront shop, you can rent hybrid bicycles for escorted or self-guided tours around the city, or multi-day tours around the island — one of the many activities available in Victoria.

Spas, food and fitness in the West

›› Continued from page 41

The scent of sandalwood, orange and geranium permeates the room as the treatment unfolds: A full-body massage, reflexology for the feet, the application of hot stones and hot towels and a final short breathing ritual. It's a lot to pack into 60 minutes, but it's all good. Afterwards, I relax in the lounge, sipping on orange-infused water before hitting one of the many nearby trails that call out to fitness enthusiasts.

But first, lunch at Mole (nothing to do with the Mexican sauce). It's a casual restaurant where pretty much everything on the menu screams "healthy," at very reasonable prices. Try the yam wrap.

A few blocks away at Cycle Treks' waterfront shop you can rent Rocky Mountain Whistler hybrid bicycles for escorted or self-guided tours around the city, or multi-day tours around the island.

Today, there's time for a short spin along the Lockside Trail, an easy, flat path that continues right up to the Sydney ferry. A bike cruise through the island's Cowichan Valley wine region is one of the favourite full-day tours.

Tomorrow there's a food festival (there are over a dozen annual food festivals that take place in and around Victoria), and a tea tasting of exotic blends at Silk Road (which also has a spa) but tonight we're dining at the handsomely decorated Prime Steakhouse opened earlier this year.

Now, don't let the name throw you. Go for the local catch such as Queen Charlotte halibut, the salmon or the incredible local albacore tuna served crusted with sesame seeds.

The spas, the food, the fitness activities ... Victoria is a great place to take a breather.

• Anne Dimon is a spa and wellness travel writer and editor of traveltowellness.com.

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tico.ca

Adventure tour

The second annual Great Waterfront Trail Adventure Tour, a 720-kilometre supported end-to-end cycling tour of the Ontario waterfront and greenways starts Sat., July 4; see waterfronttrail.org. METRO NEWS SERVICES

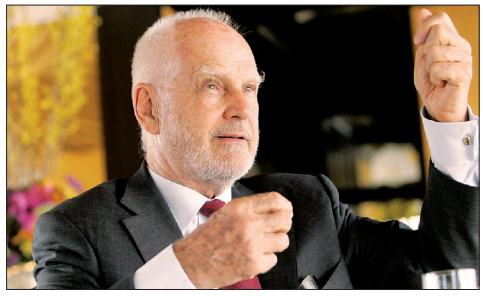
Fabled hotel chief hangs his hat

Bangkok's Oriental head served Elizabeth Taylor and Khmer Rouge leaders

Charming a fuming Elizabeth Taylor, personally snipping a British duke's hair or catering to the refined palates of Cambodia's murderous Khmer Rouge leaders.

It was all in a day's work for Kurt Wachtveitl, as he looks back on 41 years running one of the world's fabled hotels, not with nostalgic tears but plenty of juicy tales and trenchant thoughts about how Bangkok's Oriental Hotel got to be so good.

A legend himself among the international hotel fraternity, the 72-year-old Wachtveitl retires this month, having amassed awards for the five-star hotel along the Chao Phraya River as well as an endless roster of famous and rich, albeit not always agreeable, guests.



SAKCHAI LALIT/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kurt Wachtveitl, general manager of Oriental Hotel.

"She treated me like a dog. You remember guests who are really terrible," says the suave German-born hotelier, recalling how Hollywood superstar Taylor blew up because the hotel's best room, the Oriental Suite, happened to be booked when she checked in.

The two had met before, when he worked at a hotel in Lausanne, Switzerland, where actor Richard Burton would meet Taylor for trysts.

"Usually they drank vodka by the bottle. Burton at three o'clock in the morning would fall down the staircase dreadfully drunk, crawling through the lobby," says Wachtveitl.

Taylor would moan "Richard, Richard" as he drove off to his wife and Wachtveitl was left with helping the star to her room.

Back at the Oriental, the silver-haired Wachtveitl (pronounced Wacht-why-tell) managed to calm the actress down — and she even became an ally in 1993 when one of her best pals, rock star Michael Jackson, was holed up in the hotel and refused to give a concert to which thousands had already bought tickets.

Taylor flew from California and persuaded Jacko, who had just been hit with child sex abuse allegations, to perform.

"Celebrities are all easy to deal with if you do everything they want," mused Wachtveitl recently.

"If something goes against them, hell will break loose."

Established in 1876 by two Danish sea captains, the Oriental's A-list crowd in the early days included Joseph Conrad, Somerset Maugham and Rudyard Kipling.

They lived in what is now the colonial-style Author's Wing, the original part of the hotel above which towers the 10-storey River Wing, completed in 1976.

The likes of Princess Diana, Mick Jagger, Sean Connery, George W. Bush, David Beckham and Elton John stayed there during the Wachtveitl years.

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Flying through the air in Vancouver

Manju Vadmal, looking like a rock climber in his harness and blue plastic helmet, hangs from a steel cable that stretches for hundreds of metres high above the forest of Vancouver's Grouse Mountain.

"Flyers clipped in and ready for launch," our guide, Joe, says into his radio as he runs through a NASA-style checklist.

And then gravity pulls Vadmal, a 42-year-old doctor visiting from Los Angeles, along the zip line between this peak and the next, the relative silence of the mountaintop replaced by the wind rushing past his ears.

It takes less than a minute to reach the safety of the wooden platform on the other side, but it's enough time to take in the 360-degree views of the Vancouver-area's coastal mountains and the forests 100 metres below, the ground still covered in snow on a sunny June day.

"It's exciting, you can see everything from the sky," Vadmal says after the tour. "You get an aerial view, you can see everything underneath you."

The Air Grouse zip lines are the newest addition to Grouse Mountain, a winter ski resort that opens up to hikers, nature lovers and thrill seekers in the off season, and one of several attractions in the area that lift visitors off the forest floor and up into the trees.

There are other zip lines in B.C., particularly two similar operations in Whistler, B.C., but Air Grouse is less than a 20-minute drive from downtown Vancouver.

The zip-line facility opened last year with three lines at the top of the mountain. This season, two more were added that take riders back and forth between Grouse and nearby Dam Mountain.

The tour begins with a beginner's line, a slow cruise from the "flight centre" (you don't ride the zip lines, you "fly" across them), while another reaches speeds of 80 kilometres per hour. All of the lines end with a loud and sudden stop as the trolley attached to the lines crashes into a long spring at the end.

It costs $110 for a two-hour tour, most of which is spent walking between lines and waiting for others in the group to have their turn.

In all, visitors spend less than five minutes actually riding on the lines, but the facility hopes this unique way to experience the mountain will be enough to justify the hefty price tag.

"It's almost a bird's-eye view, you get to look at things a little different," says zip line manager Toby Barrett.

"It's a fun experience to get out in the mountains in a different way, you get to experience the speed and the thrill of flying along these lines."

There are cheaper, and slower, ways to immerse yourself in the coastal mountains and forests in the Vancouver area.

Seemingly endless paths wind for kilometres through the old-growth forests of North Vancouver, both at the top of mountains like Grouse (accessible by the same eight-minute tram ride that takes visitors to the zip lines) and at city-level.

DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Dean Schultz, of Prince George, B.C., rides a zip line at Grouse Mountain in North Vancouver, B.C.

"This is a bit smaller, not so spectacular. But it shows you another part of nature, being able to look down on it."

For more information, see grousemountain.com

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Is the worst over?
A survey from TNS Canadian Facts found 44 per cent of respondents have already cut back in on spending when planning the details of their trips. However, the worst appears to be over: only one-in-seven Canadians report that they are still looking to make further cuts in their travel expenditures. METRO NEWS SERVICES

MICHAEL JACKSON/FOR METRO CANADA

Mount Hood in Oregon

Explosive sights in the Pacific northwest

RoadWarrior

Riding into Oregon from northern California is simply a matter of staying on Highway 101. A small sign on the side of the road says, Welcome to Oregon — blink and you'd miss it.

I decided to forgo the coast: The onshore breeze was blowing extremely hard and I was getting pushed from one side of the lane to the other with each gust.

I managed to ride up to Florence before I decided to turn inland and head for Crater Lake. I backtracked from Florence to Reedsport, then took Highway 38/138 to Roseburg. From there I took a wonderful road through idyllic countryside, past ranches and old wooden barns and alongside the Umpqua River as it twisted and turned on its journey to the Pacific.

Crater Lake is a caldera lake. Many years ago, the volcano Mount Mazama collapsed, leaving a large hole in the ground. Over the years rain and snowmelt filled the hole, forming a lake.

At its deepest spot the depth is over 1,900 feet. It looked to be a mile across in either direction. In May the mountains that line the lake are snow covered which strikes a perfect balance against the deep blue water. Actually, it almost looked too perfect, as though it were really a movie set.

I eventually made my way past Mount Hood. Even though the volcano is dormant, its presence is hard to ignore. It's a huge cone with snow-laden sides. I was actually shaking as I rode in its shadow. Not sure why it unnerved me, but it did.

I continued on to Hood River on the Columbia River Gorge. It's a great town on a great river. I spent the night camping in Viento State Park, which is situated between a cliff, the interstate a train track and the Columbia River. Never in my live have I heard so much noise all at once. The interstate buzzes all night; the trucks shake the ground as they rumble past; there's a railway crossing close by so the trains blow their horns as they pass. One night was all I could stand.

The next day I took a side trip to see Mount St. Helens; an active volcano in the state of Washington. What's left of Mount St Helens is massive and also alarming.

A enormous amount of rock debris blew off when the volcano last erupted The crater left after the explosion is over 1.5 kilometers wide. After the eruption, there was concern that the area would never recover. However, the trees have reappeared, replacing the thousands lost. Animals have returned and the valley is on the rebound.

Michael Jackson is on a two-month motorcycle trip around North America. Track his progress at adventuremotorcycleroutes.ca.

Road trip

• Metro columnist Michael Jackson has embarked on the trip of a lifetime. He has headed out for a two-month solo motorcycle trip across the U.S. and Canada — but to make things even more interesting, he plans to have something of a mobile office, managing his small business, a printing company, remotely while he's on the road. But will Michael really be able to put work aside at those times when he's trying to enjoy his trip? Will his bike break down, wreaking havoc on his itinerary and budget? And will he go stir crazy travelling by himself for six weeks? Follow his adventures every Wednesday in Metro to find out.

Tips for free U.S.attractions

BUDGET TRAVEL Editors at TripAdvisor.com have compiled a list of five free attractions recommended by the website's users, from New England to Florida to California and the Southwest. They are:

• Mallory Square, in Key West, Fla., where you'll find food vendors, acrobats, musicians and a spectacular sunset.

• Garden of the Gods, Colorado Springs, Colo., home to sandstone rock formations and a view of Pike's Peak.

• Cliff Walk, Newport, R.I., a scenic 5.6-kilometre walkway with the ocean on one side and views of the famous Newport mansions on the other.

• Griffith Observatory, Los Angeles, where you can look up at the night sky through a telescope or simply take in the view of Los Angeles and the famous Hollywood sign.

• Best Friends Animal Sanctuary, Kanab, Utah, in the scenic Angel Canyon, where you can volunteer to help with the animals or take a free tour of the grounds.

Southern experiences for children

FAMILY TRAVEL Southern Living magazine is recommending 12 "quintessential Southern experiences for kids," from horseback riding on the beach in Jekyll Island, Ga., to history in Williamsburg, Va. The other 10 destinations and experiences are listed in the magazine's June issue. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Jammin' in June

If you're heading to the coast of Maine this month, you can take in the annual unfurling of Maine's windjammer fleet. The historical schooners take visitors for tours of the coast's harbours, islands and fishing villages; see sailmainecoast.com. METRO NEWS SERVICES

The rise of the babymoon

Up-market hotels increasingly cater to maternity holidays

EMMA E. FORREST
Metro World News

One of the first things people say when you tell them that you're expecting a baby is that you must immediately book your final exotic holiday before your life changes forever.

It's overdramatic to suggest that having a baby means you'll never have another exciting vacation in your life. However it is a good time for expectant parents to spend time together, stock up on some sleep, have someone else do the cooking and visit some sights that will be less practical to navigate with a baby buggy.

People have different ideas of what they'd like to do on their last child-free holiday with partner or best friend, depending on how anxious or adventurous they're feeling.

Do you want to lounge on a faraway beach, have your last crazy adventure or splash out on a luxurious romantic break?

You could indulge in your favourite sport or rest somewhere low-key and reassuringly close to home.

There are some practical considerations, however. In the first trimester pregnant women can suffer from morning sickness, phenomenal tiredness and weird food cravings; and in the last trimester they not only feel huge, but they're exhausted, too. So the ideal time to go is during the middle three months. Most airlines let you fly until 36 weeks, but will ask for a letter from your doctor after week 28.

You might fancy trekking in the middle of the jungle, but remember that pregnant women can't take malaria pills and you might want to be somewhere near reasonable medical facilities. And even if the mother-to-be is no longer slave to her cravings, you don't want to go anywhere where you might get food poisoning.

I took my first babymoon with my oldest friend, who lives in Washington, D.C. and was 27 weeks pregnant. She suggested an expedition to Peru until I asked how she'd feel if she went into labour at high altitude in the Andes, far away from her nice obstetrician.

My holiday choices were more restricted; pregnant by about 10 weeks, I could only face eating hamburgers or apples. This made Miami the ideal destination, with its mix of glamour, shopping, beaches, good weather, access to superlative medical care — thanks to its population of wealthy pensioners — and of course, top quality burgers.

Read more on page 45 ››

JASON KEMPIN/GETTY IMAGES

LITTLE PALM ISLAND

Left, actress Jessica Leccia shops at the Destination Maternity Madison Avenue flagship store in New York City. Right, relaxing at Little Palm Island's spa.

"(My friend) suggested an expedition to Peru until I asked how she'd feel if she went into labour at high altitude in the Andes."

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Best secluded beaches

Looking for a beautiful beach without the crowds? Coastal Living magazine recommends 10 secluded beach destinations in its June issue. They include Lanikai Beach, near Kailua, Hawaii; Bahia Honda State Park in Florida; and Bahia Sucia on the southwest coast of Puerto Rico along Highway 301. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Thalassa Bay hotel in Cyprus, which offers expert pregnancy spa treatments.

>> Continued from page 44

In Miami we gave a nod to our Sex and the City days by shopping at American Apparel and sipping virgin cocktails on the rooftop bar of the trendy Gansevoort hotel.

Then we headed down the Florida Keys to the ultimate babymoon destination, Little Palm Island. An idyllic retreat on a tiny private island surrounded by the azure waters of the Caribbean, it offers fabulous food, a pool, activities from fishing to kayaking and snorkelling and a pampering spa with maternity massages on the menu that can form part of one of their babymoon packages; littlepalmisland.com.

The so-called babymoon is a big trend with upmarket hotels and there are plenty of indulgent packages you can book. Take a city break in Vienna and book the Luxury Before Birth package at The Ring Hotel, which includes two nights in a top room, massages for both parents, a limousine tour through Vienna and gifts; theringhotel.com.

In London there's the Mum to Be package at the Metropolitan Hotel which includes a free tote bag and hydrating mist, pregnancy massage and breakfast; metropolitan.como.bz.

The indoor pool at the Thalassa Bay hotel.

Alternatively, book a specialist Mama Mio treatment or sign up for a Relax & Indulge overnight stay at the gorgeous, wood-panelled Brown's Hotel in Mayfair, which involves a relaxing aromatherapy for daddy-to-be and a Mellow Mama massage for the expecting mother; rocco fortecollection.com. For a romantic break in the English countryside, explore the breathtaking UNESCO-listed city of Bath, then relax at beautiful country house hotel Lucknam Park and enjoy one of the Anne Semonin mother-to-be face and body treatments in their new spa; lucknampark.co.uk.

If you're looking for something more exotic, chill out with expert pregnancy spa treatments at boutique hotel Thalassa in Cyprus, thalassa.com.cy, or babymoon at Montpelier Plantation on the Caribbean island of Nevis, with candlelit dinners overlooking the island of St. Kitts, a romantic picnic on the hotel's private beach, a tour of Nevis and massages for both of you; montpeliernevis.com.

If you're on a budget, create your own babymoon and book a spa treatment independently. Massages are great for relaxing your mind and soothing your ever-stretching skin, but only if they're tailored with products and techniques that are safe for your bump.

International beauty brand ESPA offers a blissfully relaxing pre-natal treatment using a calendula-infused oil, pink clay mud and various nourishing creams. Save on the expensive hotel room and treat yourself to this indulgence at one of their many spas worldwide, it will be worth the investment; espaonline.com. Alternatively, try one of the treatments conceived by Mama Mio, the beauty brand designed especially for mothers before and after birth (mamamio.com) or one of the new maternity treatments from Cowshed, which you can enjoy at spas or hotels in London, Somerset, Cornwall or Edinburgh; cowshedonline.com.

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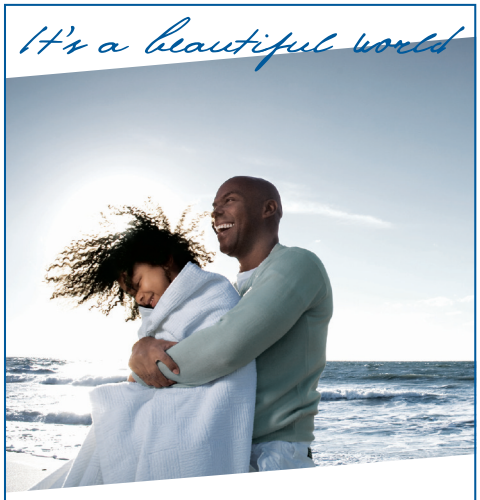

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Brookfield Zoo turns 75

The suburban Chicago zoo is offering a year's worth of discounts and special events to mark the occasion of its 75th birthday. The celebration will culminate next year with the opening of the new Great Bear Wilderness exhibit featuring bald eagles, bison and polar bears. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Fear of flying? Hop on a plane

PHOBIAS A man who says he's afraid to fly is spending the month of June living on a plane.

Mark Malkoff, 33, a comedian and filmmaker, boarded his first flight June 1 from LaGuardia in New York, where he lives, heading to Atlanta. He plans to stay on AirTran flights until June 30. The airline offers wireless Internet service, so Malkoff is posting updates about his trip on Twitter, Facebook, MySpace and on his blog, MarkOnAirTran.com.

Entertaining videos on his blog show him playing a cramped game of Twister with other passengers in the aisle; his crazy dances when the plane is parked for the night, and a wacky experiment to see if the airplane bathroom will suck an entire roll of toilet paper down in one flush.

Malkoff, a former audience co-ordinator for The Colbert Report, said in an email that "the hardest part is washing my hair in the airplane bathroom. I use baby wipes to clean myself … The only time I leave the plane is once in a while to go on the tarmac to switch planes. I never go into to an airport. I'm trying to stay on the same plane for as much as possible."

His itinerary ranges from five to a dozen flights a day, with destinations including Raleigh, Jacksonville, Denver, Pittsburgh, and St. Louis.

His wife flies to meet him on weekends.

He also tries to exercise between flights when the plane is empty by jogging in the aisles and doing push-ups on the seats.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Ottawa urged to open skies

The Consumers' Association of Canada is urging Ottawa not to allow Air Canada to have a veto over additional flights by Emirates Airways.

Association president Bruce Cran wrote Transport Minister John Baird pushing him to proceed with the government's open skies agenda.

The group argues the policy would force Canada's airlines to compete against the world's best, especially on the expensive international routes.

Cran said consumers would benefit from lower prices and better service if increased airline competition is encouraged.

Emirates wants to increase its direct flights between Canada and the Middle East beyond the three flights a week between Toronto and Dubai offered since October 2007. The addition of a double-decker A380 would increase the route capacity.

But Air Canada has objected to increased service to Toronto or other gateways. And the Air Canada Pilots Association has said the move could threaten the Montreal airline's tenuous financial situation, and push it into bankruptcy protection.

"Giving Air Canada a veto over who gets to operate in Canada is an endorsement of their cartel-like behaviour."
CAC's president Bruce Cran

But Cran told the minister that consumer interests should come before those of Air Canada.

"Giving Air Canada a veto over who gets to operate in Canada is an endorsement of their cartel-like behaviour," he wrote in a letter dated Friday.

Additional flights by Emirates would give Canadian consumers more choice to Dubai, as well as destinations in the Middle East and North Africa that aren't being served by domestic Canadian carriers.

Refusing to open these routes to foreign carriers effectively forces Canadians onto the Air Canada/Star Alliance route network, where they would have to fly to London, Chicago or Frankfurt to get to the Middle East, Africa or Asia.

The association said it receives the most complaints about Air Canada.

The allegations of anti-competitive practices are in addition to general anti-consumer behaviour, Cran said.

He said it's unfortunate that it took a Canadian Transportation Agency ruling before Air Canada was forced to change its lost of damaged luggage policy.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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You are invited to give us ideas on how to make the Toronto Transit Commission's (TTC) services and facilities better for people with disabilities.

Your comments will be assessed by the TTC and the Advisory Committee on Accessible Transportation (ACAT).

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If you cannot attend, but would like to contribute suggestions about TTC conventional and Wheel-Trans services, call 416-393-3030 (TTY at 416-481-2523) Monday to Friday, 8:00 am to 5:00 pm.

www.ttc.ca 416-393-INFO

Peteran brings exhibit to N.Y.

FURNITURE MAKER Toronto furniture maker/sculptor Gord Peteran says he likes to explore ideas about familiar objects in the home.

"I tear furniture apart, stir up the information and reconfigure it," says Peteran, a professor at the Ontario College of Art and Design.

Peteran has brought his touring show — "Gord Peteran: Furniture Meets Its Maker" — to the Museum of Arts and Design in New York for a two-month run.

The 25-year retrospective, organized by the Milwaukee Arts Museum where it was first staged in 2006, includes 24 works, including "A Table Made of Wood," which appears to be cobbled together in random fashion from scraps lying on Peteran's workshop floor. Other works suggest cabinets or a billiard table.

Glenn Adamson, the exhibit's curator and deputy director of research at the Victoria and Albert Museum in London, calls Peteran "one of the most innovative artists working in North America today."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

New baby for Carnie Wilson
Carnie Wilson has added to her brood. The singer and game show host gave birth to a healthy baby girl on Friday at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles, her manager Mickey Shapiro confirms. PEOPLE.COM

Entertainment

Wanted sign
Angelina Jolie is set to star in Wanted 2. Work is currently under way on the sequel, and while her character died in the first movie, the director hopes to bring her back.
FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK

EDITOR: DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA

Music on a budget

North By Northeast rocks Yonge-Dundas with free shows

IAN NATHANSON
for Metro Canada

While music fans are likely to splurge a bit at any one of the 50 downtown Toronto venues hosting bands at this year's North by Northeast (NXNE) Music & Film Festival And Conference, organizers are also keenly aware that some regular attendees might be more budget-conscious in this recession year.

With that in mind, NXNE managing director Andy McLean recommends this hard-to-beat highlight for the festival's 15th edition: Free outdoor showcases at Yonge-Dundas Square. And not just for one day, either.

"Having Yonge-Dundas Square to run shows for four days and nights is a massive commitment from us and from the city," McLean says. "This is our third year of doing concerts in the square, but the first time we've done these over that long a time frame. It's part of the growth of Yonge-Dundas Square coming into its own as a place to catch a show."

The free Yonge-Dundas shows will feature, among others, showcases from Wintersleep, Black Lips, founding Wu-Tang Clan rapper GZA, Melissa Auf Der Mar and Zoobombs.

Traditionally, NXNE provides the perfect gathering place for up-and-coming acts of multiple genres to strengthen their connections with fans, music business types and other performers. Even as YouTube, MySpace, Facebook, Twitter and other means of Internet-based self-promotion currently play a important role in such connections, McLean still believes that nothing beats face-to-face interactions.

Black Lips, above, Wu-Tang Clan rapper GZA, top right, and Wintersleep, right, are among the artists performing for free at Yonge-Dundas Square during North by Northeast this week.

For more details on North by Northeast visit nxne.com

"Bands come here to make new fans, make industry connections, hook up with the media … you have five days in order to promote yourself in whichever way you can," McLean says. "Some wind up signing to a label, if that's the direction they want to go. But most of the time it's about developing contacts and continuing their career growth."

Along with the live showcases, trade shows and conferences (including a celebrity interview with the aforementioned GZA), NXNE is upping its film festival component. Also worth investigating is the fest's third annual charity soccer match, pitting athletic types against musician types, being held at BMO Field.

The festival runs today through to Sunday. Tickets for individual shows are available, along with wristbands and passes ranging from $25 for one-day users to $250 for a VIP Super Pass —which allows festival-goers to pre-book up to 10 showcases — can be purchased. Visit nxne.com for details.

Music festival best bets

BRIAN COULTON
for Metro Canada

Starting today, more than 500 bands will descend on Toronto for North by Northeast. From alt-country, through electronic, to metal, the whole musical gamut will be represented at more than 50 venues across the city. Here, we present Metro's musical must-sees for the weekend.

THURSDAY

Boys Who Say No, 9 p.m., Clinton's: Outfit with banjo, ukelele and cajón, this energetic independent Toronto quartet with middle school origins plays country-touched pop rock with shared vocals.

Songwriters in the Round, 9 p.m., Lee's Palace: All-star pan-Canadian lineup, including Jim Cuddy, Royal Wood and Oh Susanna at 9 p.m., Jason Plumb, Kevin Hearn and Jenn Grant at 10 p.m., and NQ Arbuckle, Justin Rutledge and Luke Doucet at 11 p.m.

United Steel Workers of Montreal, 11 p.m., Horseshoe Tavern: Alt-country Quebec six-piece rocks breakneck bluegrass with nostalgic lyrics; Voted Best Country/Folk Act in the Montreal Mirror readers poll, two years running.

FRIDAY

$100, 9 p.m., Dakota Tavern: Simone Schmidt leads one of Toronto's finest dark country collectives with a voice that can be both brooding and benevolent, whether singing about cancer or colonization.

Band of Skulls plays Friday and Saturday at North by Northeast.

Band of Skulls, 9 p.m., Mod Club & Saturday, 11 p.m., El Mocambo (Downstairs): This dual-lead vocal U.K. trio is still reeling off its debut release, the catchy, blued-infused alternative rock album Baby Darling Doll Face Honey.

The Deep Dark Woods, 10 p.m., Dakota Tavern: This Saskatoon, Sask., foursome draws on early folk to shape its tender alt-country tunes, punctuated by simple harmonies and expressive lyrics, gently delivered.

Ruby Jean and the Thoughtful Bees, 12 a.m., Drake Hotel: The honey-sweet but strapping voice of Rebekah Higgs steers this Halifax electro quartet. RJATTB takes minimalist synth to the max, mobilizing a crowd in minutes.

SATURDAY

CATL, 12 a.m., Silver Dollar: This ragged blues band brings a history of punk presence to shape its forceful, spontaneous sound. Don't expect to hear a song performed the same twice, as CATL's all about playing in the moment.

Bloodgroup, 3 a.m., Neutral Lounge & Thursday, 9 p.m., El Mocambo (Downstairs): One of Iceland's non-Björk exports, synth-pop quintet Bloodgroup, is quickly breaking waves the world over. Fronted vocally by lady Lilja, the band spins danceable, uptempo electronic beats with playful lyrics.

Arthur Stace and Johnny Cash at Folsom Prison, a new documentary about the singer-songwriter's stint performing at the titular slammer in 1968.

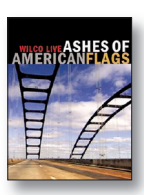
Film fest complements rock 'n' roll lineup

CHRIS ALEXANDER
for Metro Canada

With downloading at a critical, crippling apex it seems the only hope the floundering music industry has of surviving is in getting back to its communicative roots: Live performances.

That's what makes the ongoing North by Northeast Music & Film Festival and Conference (running June 17 to 21) one of Toronto's brightest arts and culture lights, amassing more than 500 international signed and unsigned pop bands and trotting them out on the stages of key local live music venues.

But equally important to NXNE's legendary fingerprint this year is the film festival that runs alongside it. Collecting an amazing array of musically themed screenings that exemplify the passion and energy of rock 'n' roll in all its various incarnations, the festival's cinema series (this year partnered with the NFB) is the biggest and most diverse in its 15-year history, with over 30 features and short subjects playing out on a myriad of screens around the city.



The Wilco documentary Ashes of American flags screens at NXNE this week.

Some highlights of this year's film festival include Ashes of American Flags, a stunning document of beloved rock outfit Wilco and the group's 2008 North American tour; Frautschi, an intimate portrait of a Russian guitar hero and teacher whose influence in his home country is profound; Turner Award winning The Posters Came From the Walls, which charts the international (and insatiable) fan base that pioneering British electro-popsters Depeche Mode still command; The Eternity Man, Julien Temple's haunting chronicle of Australian street chalk artist

Canada's Walk of Fame

Blue Rodeo, Raymond Burr, Kim Cattrall (pictured at left), Tom Cochrane, Dsquared2 (Dean & Dan Caten), Howie Mandel, Robert Munsch and Chantal Petitclerc will be inducted into Canada's Walk of Fame this September. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Harry Potter publisher faces plagiarism lawsuit

BOOKS The publisher of the wildly popular and profitable Harry Potter books says it intends to fight a lawsuit alleging author J.K. Rowling stole the idea for them.

A statement from Bloomsbury Publishing says the suit alleges Rowling took the idea for the boy wizard from an author named Adrian Jacobs. It says Jacobs has since died, but the suit was brought by his estate. Bloomsbury said yesterday that such a plagiarism allegation is "unfounded, unsubstantiated and untrue" and that Rowling had "never heard of Adrian Jacobs nor seen, read, or heard of his book."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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They're still hella good

No Doubt amps up sold-out crowd on reunion tour

No Doubt

Venue: Air Canada Centre
Rating: ●●●●

BRIAN COULTON
for Metro Canada

SAM HORTON/TORONTO NEWS

No Doubt's Gwen Stefani performs last night at the ACC.

There's no doubt about it; No Doubt's still got it.

The Anaheim, Calif., band played to a sold-out crowd at the Air Canada Centre last night, its first stop in Canada since 2002. Lead singer Gwen Stefani, more recently known for her solo stint, joined Tom Dumont on guitar, bassist Tony Kanal and drummer Adrian Young, playing in advance of their forthcoming 2010 release.

The pop-rock band that rode the 1990s ska wave to fame hasn't released an album together since 2001's Rock Steady. But despite the hiatus, the foursome played a quick, co-ordinated collection of favourites, to much excitement from the packed crowd.

Following opening sets by Tennessee pop punk band Paramore and Toronto's ska-meets-reggae duo Bedouin Soundclash, the quartet emerged, dressed all in white, all of them rocking Stefani's trademark blonde hair.

The crowd roared as the guitarists and Stefani played before a futuristic white pod with thick spider-like legs jutting out in which Young's drum kit sat, flanked by keyboard and trombone players. No Doubt opened with Spiderwebs as Stefani jumped about the stage, amping up the audience and inviting them to wave their hands as they sang along.

The band went from ska to rock with Hella Good, with Stefani punching the air as her glittering black-and-white costume flew in the air behind her. At the bridge, Young pulled down his underwear, slapping his rear, eliciting squeals throughout the stadium.

Fittingly, Stefani removed her jacket as the band travelled from rock to reggae for Underneath It All as Dumont whipped out a hot pink guitar.

At their first chance for a break, Stefani yelled, "We love Canada so much! It's crazy!" proving her outburst by pulling a fan from the audience up on stage so he could show off his cursive No Doubt tattoo and snap a picture with Stefani.

Playing with variety and vigour, No Doubt proved it hasn't lost its crowd-pleasing capacity, poising fans for what's to come.

Concert Review
music@metronews.ca

Next stop: London

- If you couldn't catch No Doubt in Toronto last night, the band will play London, Ont.'s John Labatt Centre June 30.

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From Wrestler to Swan
Looks like Darren Aronofsky's next project, following his hot ticket The Wrestler, will be The Black Swan. Natalie Portman is already attached to star in the supernatural thriller, which could start shooting in the next few months. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Golden Girl says 'yes' to role

The Proposal's Betty White is keeping busy and stealing scenes at age 87

NED EHRBAR
Metro World News

The word "retirement" doesn't even register for veteran actress Betty White, left, who can be seen next in the upcoming comedy The Proposal with Sandra Bullock.

Before we even get started with our interview, Betty White wants to make one thing clear: She loves Canadians. Absolutely adores them. "I wish Americans could take manners lessons from them. They are so nice," she gushes. "We get some rather rude, hurried people here sometimes."

Best known for her iconic roles on The Golden Girls and The Mary Tyler Moore Show, 87-year-old White is still quite active professionally, making regular guest appearances on The Late Late Show with Craig Ferguson and Boston Legal, and game shows like Million Dollar Password.

She's also been popping up in scene-stealing roles in films like the upcoming The Proposal, with Sandra Bullock and Ryan Reynolds.

With another project co-starring Sigourney Weaver and Jamie Lee Curtis about to start, the word "retirement" doesn't even register for White — though she has earned the luxury of being picky.

"They send me scripts, and some of them are not what you might call wonderful," she confides.

To most, though, White will always be Rose Nyland, the naive Minnesota native sharing a house with three friends in The Golden Girls. The recent passing of co-stars Estelle Getty and Bea Arthur has only bolstered the show's popularity.

And the outpouring of support after Arthur lost her battle to cancer earlier this year offered some comfort to the grieving White. "She meant so much to so many people. It was heartening to see how much they rallied."

Saying goodbye, especially so soon after Getty passed away, was tough but necessary. "We had to let her go. She was so sick," White says. "She was in terrible trouble, pain-wise. And the morphine couldn't reach it. But she was someone special."

White says she's been keeping in touch even more these days with Rue McClanahan, the other surviving Golden Girl. "We've been clinging to each other ever since losing Estelle and losing Bea. We want to be together," White says. "You can't work that closely and not get terribly involved personally."

Another comfort has been the continuing popularity of the series, which still confounds White to some degree.

"When the DVD came out, I thought who's going to watch it? We're on four times a day. They know the lines better than we ever did," White jokes. "But sure enough, the DVD keeps selling all over the world. I hear from Finland, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka. Will you explain to me what people see in old broads in Sri Lanka?"

Probably the same thing they do in Canada.

Movie feature

The Proposal hits theatres this Friday

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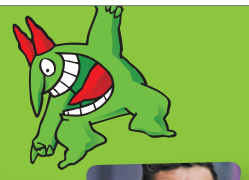

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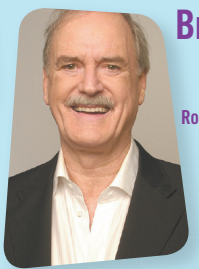

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Bo donates his childhood instrument

Former American Idol finalist Bo Bice has donated a clarinet to a Nashville instrument drive. Bice, who was on the show in 2005, personally delivered the instrument Saturday to collection officials, who said he used it when he was younger. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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A role fit for a king

Anthony Head plays ruler, father to Prince Arthur

NED EHRBAR
Metro World News

Best known as stuffy mentor Rupert Giles on Buffy the Vampire Slayer, Anthony Head is returning to TV screens in Merlin, a BBC import that puts a new spin on a classic British tale.

Head takes on the role of Uther, ruthless king and father of the impetuous Prince Arthur. Between the crown and tunic and the bloodthirsty brutishness, it's about as far from Buffy's cultured occult expert Giles as you could get. And that's just how Head likes it.

"I'm lucky to be in an industry that I can do anything," he says, easing back in his chair in the dining room of a Pasadena, Calif., hotel.

"I've worked quite hard at not being pigeonholed, not being limited by a role that I've done. I've turned down an awful lot of Giles-similar roles. Like professors and librarians, an awful lot of that."

In the meantime, he's popped up in a number of British TV series, going for laughs in Little Britain and My Family, and devouring children on Doctor Who. He was even rumoured to be one of the top choices to play the new Doctor on the long-running series, something he shrugs off.

"There have always been bets that I might be the new Doctor," he says.

Head prefers audiences get a chance to see his range. "I've done quite a few different things," he explains. To that end, he's glad that Merlin is making the jump across the pond. But he confides that the series — a kind of Smallville version of the King Arthur legend focusing on young Arthur and the wizard as teenage pals — almost didn't make it because producers couldn't find one key element.

Best known as stuffy mentor Rupert Giles on Buffy the Vampire Slayer, Anthony Head is returning to TV screens in Merlin.

"They nearly cancelled it because they couldn't find Camelot," he says. "They combed Europe, but they couldn't find anything that ticked all the boxes."

But producers discovered Chateau de Pierrefonds in northern France just in time. Restored by Napoleon III in the 1850s, the castle has held up better than its medieval predecessors.

"It's almost new," Head jokes. "Though it's got a few bits chipped out of it from where the Germans shot at it in the Second World War."

"It's absolutely beautiful. You've got this incredible depth that you could not create on a set." And Head admits that the setting does make his job a lot easier. "I walked in and went, 'Oh my god, I'm king.' I don't have to do any work, because this does it," he remembers. "This makes me king. All you have to do is turn up and be present."

Nice work if you can get it.

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Palin accepts Letterman's apology for joke

PEOPLE Sarah Palin says she accepts David Letterman's apology for the joke he made about her daughter.

The Alaska governor, in a statement issued yesterday, said the apology was accepted "on behalf of all young women, like my daughters, who hope men who 'joke' about public displays of sexual exploitation of girls will soon evolve."

On his CBS' Late Show on Monday night, Letterman said his joke about one of Palin's daughters being "knocked up" by Alex Rodriguez can't be defended. He said the joke referred to 18-year-old Bristol Palin, not her 14-year-old sister Willow. But Letterman said it's his responsibility that people believed that he intended to target Willow, who had attended a New York Yankees game with her mother.

"I'm sorry about it, and I'll try to do better in the future," he said.

Letterman last week tried to make light of the joke after the first indications that it had fallen flat. Palin had called the comments "sexually perverted," and her husband, Todd, said that "any jokes about raping my 14-year-old are despicable."

A "Fire David Letterman" protest still was planned yesterday for outside the Ed Sullivan Theater, where he tapes the show. "A belated apology is not sufficient accountability," said one organizer, Michael Leahy. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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A&E kills The Beast

A&E has cancelled Patrick Swayze's FBI drama The Beast. "(The series) has truly been a labour of love for everyone," A&E president Bob DeBitetto said, adding that "after careful deliberation," a second season was denied. TVGUIDE.COM

Writers win Ont. lit prizes

LITERATURE Toronto writer Pasha Malla has won the $20,000 Trillium Book Award for his book of short stories The Withdrawal Method.

Malla's collection encompasses a wide range of narrative styles and jumps from Vienna in the 1700s to a futuristic vision of Niagara Falls.

Jeramy Dodds of Orono, Ont., picked up the poetry prize — worth $10,000 — for his collection Crabwise to the Hounds (Coach House Books).

Dodds was nominated for the Griffin Poetry Prize, which was awarded earlier this month.

The prize was established by the Ontario government in 1987.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Holding back a fatal flaw

RAFAEL BRUSILOW
for Metro Canada

A penchant for holding back kept Tara Didon, 19, from moving forward as she was eliminated from Canada's Next Top Model last night.

The tall, lean model from Chateauguay, Que. had been frequently told by judges she had the best body of all the girls in the competition but was lacking something in her pictures.

Last night's episode saw the final seven models deal with stage-fright and pronunciation issues as they tried to do a television ad with real-life supermodel Irina Lazareanu looking on for moral support.

The girls were given burlap bags to wear and told to "sell it" as they tried to read a script about the history of fashion.

Confused faces and butchered designer names abounded (one contestant actually referred to iconic label Chanel as "channel") but Heather managed to project some personality to win the challenge.

JOHN VAN DER SCHILDEN

Tara Didon, 19, was voted off Canada's Next Top Model.

For this week's photo shoot, the girls had to model with a piece of duct tape covering their mouths, showing off that they could use their eyes to speak for them instead.

Ever-imploding Rebeccah had a meltdown as she thought the other girls were mocking her at her shoot while Tara yet again failed to impress judges with her photo, prompting show host Jay Manuel to call her a "woman holding back," a comment Tara had seen levelled at her by judges in previous weeks as well. The judges eliminated her and she became the fifth person to go this season.

Didon says she had an amazing experience on the show and whole-heartedly agrees with the judges' assessment, though she does feel she could have eventually been more successful on the show.

"Definitely I did hold back during the competition. I don't really know why — I know I could have done better," Didon said.

While she doesn't think she's a particularly shy person, she admits to feeling inexperienced at modelling compared to some of the other girls in the competition.

"For me, I felt like I needed to work harder than some of the other girls to get a great picture," she said.

Now that she's off the show, Didon is taking a slew of math courses to pursue a degree in finance.

"Whatever comes my way, I'm going to take it but modelling has never been my priority in life," Didon said.

CNTM airs Tuesday nights on CTV

TO	Vu	SC		C	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
6/17/09 primetime	265	353	2	TVO	Martin Clunes: Man and Dogs		The Agenda With Steve Paikin		New Tricks		Human Edge Gay and lesbian Jews. (N)		
	211	331	3	GTV	ET Canada	Entertainment	Wipeout (HDTV) (N)		In Plain Sight (N)		(10:01) The Unusuals		News (N)
	215	343	4	OMN1	2Half Men	The Simpsons	News (N)		Vivere Il	News (N)	The Simpsons	King of the Hill	Metropia
	210	302	6	CBC	Coronation St.	Jeopardy! (N)	Dragon's Den		Sneaker Confidential		CBC News: The National		The Hour
	214	344	7	CITY	Law & Order: SVU		Goode Family	Surviving Sub.	Japanese Game Show		(10:01) Murdoch Mysteries		News (N)
	212	313	8	CTV	etalk	Hollywood	So You Think You Can Dance Top 18 dancers perform.				CSI: NY "Dead Inside"		News (N)
	218	345	11	E!	The Insider (N)	E! News	Psych "Daredevils!" (N)		D. Richards	Kendra	Kardashians	Candy Girls (N)	News (N)
	137	763	13	TFO	Panorama été	Tshinanu	Carnets d'expédition		*Né en Absurdistan* (2000, Com. dramatique) Karl Markovics.				Les Fabricants
	-	-	14	-	Raymond	According-Jim	News (N)		News (N)		Two/Half Men	King	Cold Case
	213	326	15	SUN	Scrubs	George Lopez	*Not My Life* (2006, Suspense) Meredith Monroe.				To Serve and Protect		Becker
	-	387	16	CBS	Inside Edition	Hollywood	Old Christine	Gary Unmarr	Criminal Minds (HDTV)		CSI: NY "Dead Inside"		News (N)
	-	385	17	NBC	The Insider (N)	Entertainment	I'm a Celebrity, Get Me Out.		Law & Order "Take-Out"		Law & Order (HDTV)		News (N)
	-	386	18	ABC	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Wipeout (HDTV) (N)		Japanese Game Show		(10:01) The Unusuals		News (N)
	219	346	20	ACH-B	The Road to Avonlea		Old Christine	Gary Unmarr	Law & Order "Take-Out"		Law & Order (HDTV)		News (N)
	-	-	28	FOX	Judge Judy	Two/Half Men	So You Think You Can Dance Top 18 dancers perform.				Seinfeld	Two/Half Men	The Simpsons
	-	388	61	PBS	News-Lehrer	Wait for God	Great Performances "Chess in Concert" (HDTV) (N)					Only in Castro	Business Rpt.
	297	652	330	WPX	Two/Half Men	Family Guy	America's Next Top Model		Hitched or Ditched		PIX News at Ten Tong.		Two/Half Men
	296	654	331	SBK	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Dr. Phil (HDTV)		WBZ News (N)	What's-Store	Frasier	Frasier	Punk'd
	298	653	332	TLA	Jamie Foxx	Wayans Bros.	My Wife-Kids	According-Jim	Friends	KTLA News	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Next Model
news	502	390	26	NW	CBC News	Newman	The Hour		CBC News: The National		Royal Riders		National
	500	500	33	CNN	Lou Dobbs Tonight		Campbell Brown (N)		Larry King Live (N)		Anderson Cooper 360 (HDTV)		
	509	504	79	CNB	Kudlow Report		CNBC Reports (HDTV)		American Greed		The Russian Gamble		Mad Money
sports	405	417	22	net	MLB Baseball Toronto Blue Jays at Philadelphia Phillies. (HDTV) (Live)						Sportsnet Con.	Sportsnet Con.	Sportsnet Con.
	400	400	30	TSN	Billiards: 2008-Trick Shots		World Poker Tour				SportsCentre (HDTV) (Live)		
	411	457	58	OLN	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Departures "Canada"		Survivorman		Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Departures
	417	406	81	SC	Pimp My Ride	Pass Time	Amer. Thunder	Pinks Outtakes	Pinks	Pass Time	Wrecked	Wrecked	Pimp My Ride
family	551	542	25	YTV	In Real Life		Malcolm-Mid.	Futurama	Survive This	Adrenaline Proj	Falcon Beach "Tidal"		Mystery Hnt.
	554	544	45	TEL	Jimmy Two	Total Drama	6TEEN	6TEEN	Futurama	American Dad	Robot Chicken	Father of Pride	Moral Orel
	556	540	51	FAM	Wizards-Place	Han. Montana	Zack & Cody	Latest Buzz	Wizards-Place	Life Derek	Ned's School	Cory in House	Zack & Cody
cable variety	602	567	27	W	How Clean	Friends	Grocery	Grocery	Love It or List It		Save Us-House	Maxed Out	Maxed Out
	570	580	29	MM	One Tree Hill		Degrassi: TNG	Instant Star	Video on Trial	Video on Trial	Video on Trial	Technical Diff.	One Tree Hill
	615	520	31	A&E	CSI: Miami (HDTV)		Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Dog the Bounty Hunter		Tattoo High.	Tattoo High.	Hammertime
	700	800	35	TLN	Centrovetrine	Sky TG 24	Elisa di Rivombosa		Elisa di Rivombosa		Raymond	Raymond	George Lopez
	571	581	36	MMM	I'm a Celebrity, Get Me Out.		I'm a Celebrity, Get Me Out.		The Daily Fix		Entourage	I'm a Celebrity, Get Me Out.	
	575	583	38	CMT	Hottest Men of Country		Greatest Videos of All Time				CMT Music Awards 2009		
	616	521	39	SHO	Outer Limits		The Guard (HDTV)		*The Party Never Stops* (2007, Drama) Sara Paxton.				House
	620	523	40	BVO	The Achievers	Bravo!Videos	Arts & Minds	O'Reagan File	Wingfield	Wingfield	Death at-Opera	Broadway	Law & Order
	601	562	41	SLC	Skin Deep	Til Debt-Part	End of Leash	End of Leash	End of Leash	End of Leash	End of Leash	End of Leash	ET Canada
	522	506	43	HIS	NCIS "Frame-Up"		Cities of the Underworld		Ice Road Truckers		NCIS "Frame-Up"		Sea Hunters
	625	548	44	COM	Air Farce	Just for Laughs		Corner Gas	The Simpsons	South Park	Jon Dore Show	Tosh.0	Daily Show
	600	564	46	H&G	House Hunters	Property Virgin	Big City Broker	The Stagers	Unsellable	Hid Potential	House Hunters	House Hunters	Holmes-Homes
	294	529	47	TBS	House-Payne	House-Payne	*We Were Soldiers* ★★★ (2002, War) Mel Gibson, Madeleine Stowe.					Seinfeld	Family Guy
	576	582	49	BET	106 & Park	BET Nomina	*Juice* ★★ (1992, Crime Drama) Omar Epps.				The Game	The Game	*Juice*
	627	528	50	SPC	Stargate Atlantis (DVS)		Star Trek: Voyager		Primeval (N)		Stormworld (N)	Grand Star	Stargate SG-1
	581	566	52	MTV	Teen Cribs	After	MTV News	Room Raiders	Fantasy Fact.	Nitro Circus	True Life Pornography.		MTV Live
	618	524	54	TROP	The Crow: Stairway to Heaven		What Happen?	What Happen?	Seinfeld	Raymond	Family Guy	Seinfeld	Seinfeld
	603	561	56	FOOD	Chef at Home	Fresh-Anna	Restaurant Makeover		Iron Chef America		Dear Food Network Bahamas.		Opening Soon
	261	394	60	V	Murder, She Wrote		Keeping Up	Foot in Grave	Doc Martin		Driven, Vision	Supernatural	Poltergeist
	621	527	63	STR	The Ellen DeGeneres Show		TMZ (N)	etalk	Canada's Next Top Model		Tonight Show-Conan O'Brien		TMZ
	553	546	65	TRE	Backyardigans	Nght Grdn	Max & Ruby	Franklin	Little Bear	Bucket-Dinos	Comfy Couch	Big & Small	Max & Ruby
	115	711	101	TVA	Poule-oeufs or	Histoires-filles	Les Anges de la rénovation		Nos étés (SC)		TVA 22 heures	Sucré-salé	*Abandon* (SC)
	126	730	102	RDI	24 Heures en 60 minutes		Grands reportages (SC)		Le Téléjournal (SC)		RDI en direct	Le National	Le Téléjournal
	526	507	249	VIVA	Judging Amy "Instincts"		Medium		The Closer "LA Woman"		Mediums	Psychic Det.	Mediums
	300	601	301	M1	*The Cradle* (2007, Suspense) Lukas Haas, Amanda Smith.				*Tropic Thunder* ★★★ (2008, Comedy) Ben Stiller.				*Name Is Bruce*
	305	612	306	PIX	(7:15) *Ill Fated* ★★ (2004, Comedy-Drama)				*The Dead Zone* ★★★ (1983, Science Fiction)				*Crime Spree*

critics'corner

In Plain Sight

One of Mary's (Mary McCormack) witnesses, a man named Lewis (guest star Matt Davis), is trapped in a building collapse. As Mary stays with him to await rescue, it becomes clear that his injuries aren't the only thing putting his life in danger; there's a sniper on a nearby roof and a reporter outside ready to blow his cover. Fred Weller and Paul Ben-Victor also star in the new episode "Rubble With a Cause." 9 PM on GTV

Human Edge

Being different is difficult enough without being different in a religious tradition that calls your difference a sin. "Trembling Before G-d" tells the stories of gay and lesbian Orthodox Jews, including closeted Hasidim in heterosexual marriages and the world's first openly gay orthodox rabbi. All have one thing in common: their devotion to Judaism and their struggle to reconcile that devotion with its prohibitions against homosexuality. 10 PM on TVO

In brief

LEGAL A judge has denied a request to force prosecutors to charge TV bounty hunter Duane (Dog) Chapman with felonies for claiming that a man fired a gun at him and his crew while they were filming in Colorado.

FILM INDUSTRY Dan Glickman of the Motion Picture Association of America said yesterday the U.S. industry will increasingly work with the growing Chinese film sector to pressure Beijing to allow more Hollywood films and better combat piracy. Currently, there is a quota of 20 blockbusters on a revenue-sharing basis, while Chinese films account for more than 60 per cent of domestic box office revenues totalling 4.3 billion yuan ($710 million). THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BOOK PRIZE Padma Viswanathan's novel The Toss of a Lemon and Mary Swan's The Boys in the Trees are among six books shortlisted for the $7,500 Amazon.ca First Novel Award, given to first-time Canadian novelists in 2008. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Kenya's Style

Kenya Hunt

Read the blog at metronews.ca/kenyasstyle

Kate the chain-smoker
Kate Moss keeps 100 cigarettes nearby at all times, femalefirst.co.uk reports. The supermodel loves smoking so much she reportedly makes her personal assistant leave a packet of her favourite Marlboro Lights on every table in her home before she goes to bed. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Celebrity Buzz

Long-distance momma

PARENTHOOD Madonna phones her newly adopted daughter Mercy James every night, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The singer won her appeal to adopt the four-year-old Malawian last Friday and has since moved the toddler to a luxury lodge in the country's capital, Lilongwe, and sent a nanny and nurse to look after her.

The pop star is already doting on her new daughter and speaks to her every day. She reportedly told Mercy on Sunday: "Mommy is waiting for you across the seas."

Madonna's aides are now working on legal documents and travel papers for Mercy and she is soon expected to fly by private jet from Malawi and join Madonna's family in New York.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Lindsay the $400K jewel thief?

SUSPECT She may have been the last one seen wearing them, but did Lindsay Lohan steal $400,000 US worth of Dior jewels from her Elle photo shoot?

Under investigation by Scotland Yard, the disappearance of a set of diamond earrings and a necklace was reported on June 8. The baubles were on loan for a June 6 magazine shoot, people.com reports.

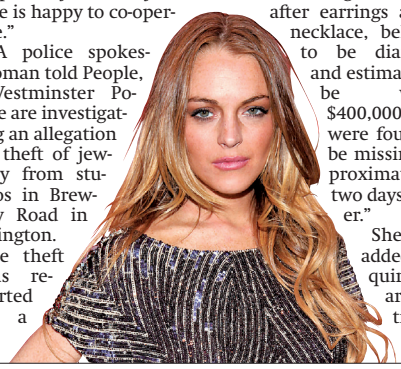
"We inquired and everyone from the shoot is being questioned," Lohan's rep told People. "Hair, makeup, stylist ... even photographers. Lindsay hopes they find the jewels. She is happy to co-operate."

A police spokeswoman told People, "Westminster Police are investigating an allegation of theft of jewelry from studios in Brewery Road in Islington. The theft was reported to a central London police station on the eighth of June after earrings and a necklace, believed to be diamond and estimated to be worth $400,000, were found to be missing approximately two days earlier."

She added: "Inquiries are continuing and no arrests have been made. As far as who we will be interviewing — we will be speaking to a number of people in connection with the inquiry and don't discuss the identity of the people we are planning to interview."

Meanwhile, a spokeswoman for Elle U.K. released a statement exonerating the 22-year-old star. "Elle has no reason to believe that Lindsay Lohan was in any way responsible and has no further comment to make."

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Speidi lash out at Al

B-LIST Heidi and Spencer Pratt are upset that Al Roker chastised them on Monday's Today show, usmagazine.com reports.

"People keep on referring to this weatherman like I'm supposed to know who he is," Spencer tells usmagazine.com hours after Roker — whom the Hills star admits he thought was just a fan from off the street — told him people think he acts like a jerk.

Spencer's wife Heidi thought Roker went too far when asking if she was proud of her behaviour on NBC's I'm a Celebrity... Get Me Out of Here.

"This weather guy was definitely out of line, and he should stick to predicting cloudy days," Heidi told Us. "Maybe someone rained on his little parade today."

Heidi, who complained that Roker didn't thank them after the interview and made her cry after personally attacking her, says he should learn some manners.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Evan lived in Jodie's shadow

MINI-ME Evan Rachel Wood didn't know whether to "kiss or punch" Jodie Foster when they met to discuss her role in forthcoming film Flora Plum — because she blames the Oscar winner for a childhood trauma, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

As a child, Wood was pushed to emulate the actress' career by her mother, who was obsessed with the Oscar winner. The 21-year-old even attended the same schools and learned to speak French — like her mom's idol — so Wood found meeting Foster in person an odd experience.

She told the New York Daily News, "I had to sit my mom down one day and look at her and say, 'I'm not Jodie Foster. I'm me, and that's who I'm going to be. OK?'

"I actually got to sit down with Jodie and I thought, 'Not that this is a bad thing, but you've haunted me my entire life. I don't know whether to kiss you or punch you.'

"But she was amazing. If I could pick anyone to have a conversation with or ask advice from, it would be her. I wept going to sleep the night before, and I wept waiting for her at the restaurant. It was a big deal for me."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Katy bullies name twin?

FAME GETTING TO HER HEAD? Singer Katy Perry is making life difficult for fashion designer Katie Perry, suing her and demanding she change her name.

"I got such a huge shock. It really felt like I was being intimidated and bullied into signing everything away," the Australian designer said, according to Hollyscoop. "(The letter) asked me to give up the trademark, withdraw sale of my clothes, withdraw any advertising and any websites and sign that I will not in the future use a similar trademark to Katy Perry."

There's only one problem. It appears that the fashion designer was in business before the singer. "I love my business. I'm not going to give it away without a fight," the designer said.

METRO WORLD NEWS

GETTY IMAGES

Alec reflects on voice mail rage

BIG MISTAKE It was the private voice mail message not meant to be shared and yet ended up being heard by nearly everyone — Alec Baldwin's angry April 2007 tirade against his daughter, Ireland, accusing the then-11-year-old of being a "rude little pig" who needed to have her "ass straightened out" after she had "humiliated me for the last time."

Now, the star admits in a candid interview with Playboy, he contemplated killing himself after the phone message was exposed, people.com reports.

At the time, Baldwin and his ex-wife, Kim Basinger, were in the sixth year of their bitter custody battle. After the message went public, Baldwin apologized on The View and wrote an advice book for divorced fathers, A Promise to Ourselves. But reaching that point was arduous.

Describing his suicidal thoughts as "very serious," the 51-year-old said, "If I committed suicide, (Kim Basinger's side) would have considered that a victory. Destroying me was their avowed goal."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Sex vid part of smear tactic?

NEGATIVE PR Just one month after nude photographs allegedly featuring Rihanna hit the Internet, the singer looks to be facing a sex tape scandal.

A preview for a video supposedly featuring the singer and ex-boyfriend Chris Brown has surfaced, according to Hollyscoop, and the full video is said to be coming out June 22 — the same day as Brown's hearing in his assault case.

METRO WORLD NEWS

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Today Thunderstorms 70% 19°/ 14°
Thursday Showers 80% 18° / 14°
Friday Showers 21°/ 16°

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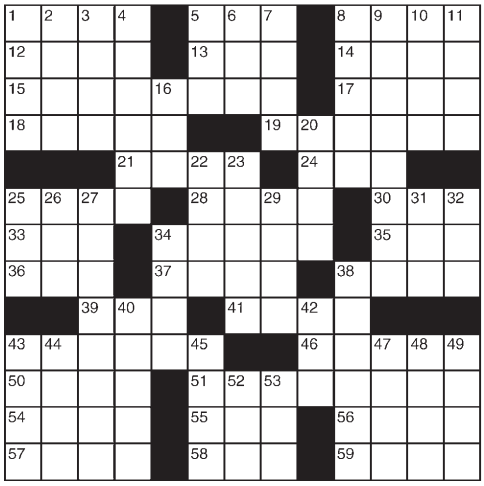

Crossword across

1 Snare
5 Wager
8 Blue material?
12 Apiece
13 Jamie Foxx biopic
14 Christmas tree, often
15 Labyrinth beast
17 Initial stake
18 Military freshman
19 Choice
21 The same, in a bibliography
24 In medias —
25 Cougar
28 Passport endorsement
30 AAA job
33 — Lanka
34 Flavoured like some mouthwash
35 Regret
36 B&B
37 "Born Free" lioness
38 Memory unit
39 "Caught ya!"
41 Dandling site
43 Disciplinarian's stick
46 Shoppers' meccas
50 State with conviction
51 Tiny details
54 Examines fully
55 "— Got a Secret"
56 PC symbol
57 Formerly, formerly
58 Caustic solution
59 Criterion

Crossword down

1 Office part-timer
2 Bar
3 Dermatologist's case
4 Fear, plus
5 Lingerie item
6 Cologne-label word
7 Novice
8 Sudden onrush
9 Government department
10 "Do — others ..."
11 3-Down sufferer, usually
16 Sen. Kennedy
20 Entreat
22 Mephistophelean doings
23 Capital of Belarus
25 Omega preceder
26 Coffee vessel
27 Mosque towers
29 Ollie's pal
31 Ump's call
32 Itty-bitty
34 Repast
38 Michael Jackson hit
40 "Imitation of Life" author Fannie
42 Outback bird
43 Top choice, for short
44 Always
45 Jannings of silents
47 Grown-up nits
48 Cambodia neighbor
49 Faxed
52 Wall climber
53 Born

Sudoku

For more/less challenging Sudoku puzzles, visit metronews.ca

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

7				2		3		
1					4	7		6
			5			8		
		1	6		3	9		2
2		8	4		7	1		
		4			5			
8		5	3					1
		6		9				7

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:

L	I	S	P		A	D	A	
O	S	H	A		G	E	M	
S	O	Y	S	A	U	C	E	
			S	H	E		T	R
S	A	M	B	A		P	H	A
C	L	O	Y		R	O	Y	C
A	S	P		M	O	P	S	Y
B	O	Y	S	C	O	U	T	
			C	A	M	P		S
T	H	R	O	N	E		L	O
B	I	E	R		T	O	Y	S
S	Y	N	C		T	W	O	
P	A	T	H		E	E	N	

S	T	E	M					
H	O	P	E					
T	W	I	T					
T	R	E	N	C	H			
P	H	A	T					
R	O	Y	C	L	A	R	K	
W	E	E						
R	O	D	E					
S	A	L	O	N				
L	O	G						
T	O	Y	S	T	O	R	Y	
A	R	I	A					
G	R	O	K					

8	2	6	4	7	3	9	5	1
7	1	5	8	6	9	4	3	2
9	4	3	2	1	5	6	7	8
5	3	2	9	8	6	7	1	4
4	8	7	5	2	1	3	6	9
1	6	9	3	4	7	2	8	5
6	5	8	7	9	2	1	4	3
2	7	4	1	3	8	5	9	6
3	9	1	6	5	4	8	2	7

Find today's answers + play more games at metronews.ca

SUDOKU SOLVE TIME:

Under 13 min .....Genius
13-17 min.....Scholar
17-21 min .....Smart
21-25 min.....Not bad
25+ min.....Keep practising

Metro Recipe of the Day

Beef Salad with Lentils

INGREDIENTS:

1 tbsp (15 ml) whole–grain mustard
6 tbsp (90 ml) olive oil
generous pinch of ground black pepper
2 beef steaks (about 1 lb/500 g in total)
1 cup (250 ml) green lentils
1 small sprig rosemary
1 1/4 cup (300 ml) low-sodium beef stock
2 medium carrots, diced
1/2 tsp (2 ml) salt
freshly ground black pepper
3 tbsp (45 ml) red wine vinegar
1 tbsp (15 ml) chopped fresh thyme leaves
4 tbsp (60 ml) whipping cream
2 tsp (10 ml) creamy horseradish sauce
100 g (4 oz) lamb's lettuce
3 tbsp (45 ml) finely chopped chives

METHOD:

1. Combine mustard, 1 tbsp (15 ml) oil and pepper. Rub steaks with mixture. Cover and chill until ready to cook. Place lentils, rosemary and stock in pot. Bring to boil, uncovered. Cover, cook lentils over low heat 20 minutes. Add carrots; cook another 10 minutes. Remove pot from heat. Leave lentils and carrots to cool in cooking liquid. Remove rosemary. Add 1/2 tsp (2 ml) salt.
2. Heat 1 tbsp (15 ml) oil in nonstick frying pan over medium–high heat. Add steaks; cook 3 to 5 minutes each side. Remove from pan, wrap in aluminum foil.
3. Whisk remaining 4 tbsp (60 ml) oil and 2 tbsp (25 ml) vinegar in medium bowl. Add salt and pepper to taste. Drain lentils and carrots from pot and add to bowl. Stir in thyme. Whip cream in small bowl until stiff; fold in horseradish sauce.
4. Slice steaks thinly and add any juices from meat to lentil mixture. Add remaining 1 tbsp (15 ml) vinegar and salt and pepper to taste. Place lentil mixture on serving plates with mâche. Add meat, top with little horseradish cream mixture and sprinkle with chives. Serve remaining horseradish cream mixture separately.

SERVES 4

rd.ca
For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to rd.ca or check out Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!
Reader's Digest
TOTAL TRUST

Horoscopes by Sally Brompton

sallybrompton.com

ARIES
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
Life is good and getting better by the moment and if you steer clear of depressing people there is no limit to how high your spirit can soar.

TAURUS
APRIL 21-MAY 21
Today's Sun-Neptune link-up will encourage you to be generous with your time and your energy, and maybe your money too.

GEMINI
MAY 22-JUNE 21
Even if you are one of those rare Geminis who prefers to stick with the old way of doing things you will be in an adventurous mood today.

CANCER
JUNE 22-JULY 22
You may not be one for confrontation but if someone tries to take liberties today you must come down on them hard.

LEO
JULY 23-AUG 23
The Sun in Gemini at this time of year brings all sorts of new and interesting people into your social orbit and someone today will be important.

VIRGO
AUG 24-SEPT 22
Make sure that your employer and any other important people you have dealings with know who you are and what you can do.

LIBRA
SEPT 23-OCT 23
Someone you meet at a charity event will become a good friend over the next few weeks and they will open your mind to new possibilities.

SCORPIO
OCT 24-NOV 22
Sometimes you are happy to let fate take its course and sometimes you like to hurry things along a little. Today it will be a mixture of both.

SAGITTARIUS
NOV 23-DEC 21
There are so many good things going on in your life that you feel you ought to show your appreciation in some way. Give generously. You can afford it.

CAPRICORN
DEC 22-JAN 20
You are no stranger to effort but at some point today you will realize that the more you put into a situation the less you get out.

AQUARIUS
JAN 21-FEB 18
With the Sun in the most dynamic area of your chart over the next 24 hours this is unlikely to be just another day.

PISCES
FEB 19-MARCH 20
Uranus in your birth sign is liable to be rather disruptive today but nothing will happen that you cannot handle.

WORDY GURDY®

BY TRICKY RICKY KANE

Every answer is a rhyming pair of words (like FAT CAT and DOUBLE TROUBLE), and they will fit in the letter squares. The number after the definition tells you how many syllables in each word.

1. Yours truly rides in a jet (1)
2. One and only newborn horse (1)
3. Busted an oxen harness (1)
4. Actor Kevin, meet actor William H. (2)
5. Bank clerk in a basement (2)
6. Make WWII General George less skinny (2)
7. Ponzi schemer Madoff's long trips (2)

ANSWERS
1. I FLY 2. SOLE FOAL 3. BROKE YOKE 4. SPACEY MACY
5. CELLAR TELLER 6. FATTEN PATTON 7. BENEFITS JOURNEYS

6-17-09

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Canada's Economic Action Plan: 80% Already Underway

Canada's Economic Action Plan is well underway. That's the message contained in a new Report to Canadians by the Federal Government.

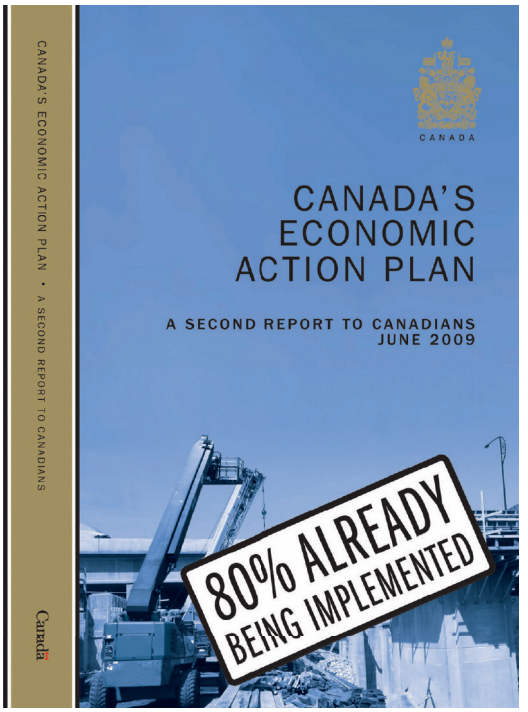
The report shows that 80% of economic stimulus is already being implemented and thousands of initiatives are taking shape across the country. This unprecedented action by the Federal Government is designed to help protect Canadians from the global recession that continues to affect countries around the world.

"The federal stimulus package (is) timely, appropriately sized, diversified and well structured..."

- International Monetary Fund

Top international economic organizations have been clear in citing Canada as one of the countries that has been less affected than others by the global crisis. Experts at the International Monetary Fund (IMF) noted, "the financial strains evident elsewhere are markedly less serious in Canada."

These same experts at the IMF have also been positive in their assessment of the Federal Government's Economic Action Plan, concluding that "the federal stimulus package (is) timely, appropriately sized, structured, with steps to facilitate labor reallocation and protect the vulnerable."



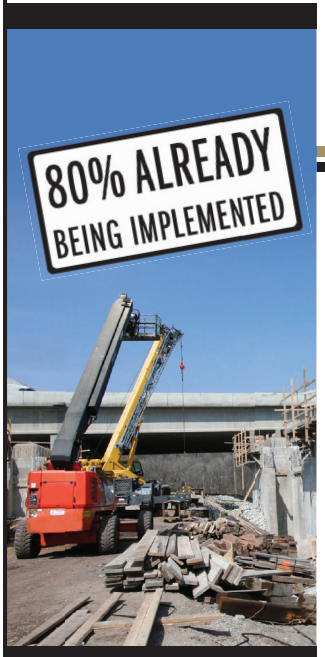
In a nutshell, the Economic Action Plan encourages consumer and business spending by cutting taxes and improving access to financing. It creates jobs and promotes growth by investing in infrastructure. It assists unemployed Canadians by extending employment insurance benefits and funding skills training. And it helps build the economy of tomorrow by improving infrastructure at colleges and universities, while investing in research and technology.

With this Economic Action Plan, the Federal Government has also shown clear accountability by creating a government website, www.actionplan.gc.ca, that identifies the Action Plan benefits and programs available to Canadian families and businesses. These include benefits for home owners and home buyers, such as incentives for home renovation and first time home buyers.

Due in no small part to the action taken by the Federal Government, Canada is predicted to be amongst the first to emerge from this economic crisis. The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development has in fact predicted that Canada will lead the recovery among G7 nations in 2010.

CANADA'S ECONOMIC ACTION PLAN

IMPORTANT INFORMATION



TAX CUTS AND BENEFITS FOR YOU

The Federal Government's Economic Action Plan is underway.
80% of stimulus measures are already being implemented.

Don't miss out.
Make sure you get the tax cuts and benefits you are entitled to.

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- Extended Employment Insurance Benefits
- Infrastructure Spending to Create Jobs
- Green Investments in Clean Energy Research and Technology

Canada

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CITY: 7.3 L/100KM 39 MPG

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★★★★★ Crash Test Rating
NHTSA - Frontal and side impacts**

LX MODEL SHOWN

HWY: 7.8 L/100KM 36 MPG
CITY: 10.3 L/100KM 27 MPG

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*MSRP for 2010 Forte 2.0L MT (FO540A)/2010 Soul 1.6L MT (SO550A) is $15,695/$15,495. Delivery and destination fees of $1,455/$1,650 excluded. ◆Monthly lease payment for 2010 Soul 1.6L MT (SO550A) is $199 for 48 months at 3.9% lease APR with a $785 down payment. Total lease obligation is $10,357 with the option to purchase at end of term for $6,815. Delivery and destination fees of $1,650 excluded. ◆◆Purchase price for 2009 Rio EX MT (RO5429)/2009 Sportage LX MT (SP5519) is $9,995/$16,995 and includes a cash rebate of $3,600/$4,700 based on an MSRP of $13,595/$21,695. Delivery and destination fees of $1,455/$1,650 excluded. License, registration, insurance, dealer administration fees and taxes are excluded. Other lease and finance options also available. Dealers are free to set individual prices. Prices subject to change without notice. Certain restrictions may apply. ★Visit mykiaforte.ca for full contest details. ◇Anniversary Savings and 0% purchase financing available on all 2009 models for 48 months on approved credit (O.A.C.). Not applicable on future value financing. §Kia's Integrity Advantage is underwritten by Echelon General Insurance Company and is valid on any new Kia model financed or leased through an authorized Kia dealer, for up to one year after purchase, and covers negative equity up to $7,500. Please refer to your Kia Integrity Advantage insurance policy document for full terms and conditions. Only available at participating dealers. Restrictions apply. Coverage options vary by province. See your participating Kia dealer for details. The Echelon General Insurance Company logo is a Registered Trademark of Echelon General Insurance Company. ◇Highway/city fuel consumption for 2010 Soul 1.6L MT is 6.3 L (45 MPG)/7.7 L (36MPG); 2009 Rio EX MT is 5.9 L (48 MPG)/7.3 L (39 MPG); 2009 Sportage LX MT is 7.8 L (36 MPG)/10.3 L (27 MPG) per 100km. The actual fuel consumption of these vehicles may vary. These estimates are based on the Government of Canada's approved criteria and testing methods. Refer to the Government of Canada publication EnerGuide Fuel Consumption Guide. ‡Green Score for Kia Rio based on manual transmission specification within their segment. Refer to GreenerCars.org for full details. ††NHTSA (National Highway Traffic Safety Administration) test results. Visit www.safercar.gov for full details. †Visit autos.msn.com for full details. ^Conditions apply to the $500 Grad Rebate program, see dealer for details. +Some conditions may apply to the $750 Kia Mobility program. See dealer for details. ✤Late availability on Bluetooth hands-free option. ▼Kia's "Worry-Free Comprehensive" warranty covers most vehicle components against defects occurring under normal use and maintenance conditions. ❖For every Kia vehicle purchased, a donation will be made to the Habitat for Humanity Canada Sponsorship Program. Visit www.habitat.org for details. Bluetooth technology and SIRIUS® Satellite Radio available on select 2009 and 2010 models. The Bluetooth® word mark and logo are registered trademarks and are owned by Bluetooth SIG, Inc. © 2009 SIRIUS Canada Inc. See dealer for details. Price, availability and specifications are subject to changes without notice. Some vehicles advertised may include optional accessories or after-sale equipment and may not be exactly as shown. Information in this advertisement is believed to be accurate at the time of print. Offer ends June 30, 2009 and is valid for residents of Ontario and Manitoba only. KIA is a trademark of Kia Motors Corporation.